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## Cash/Reserve Portfolio Considerations

September 2023

# Market Environment

### **Current Interest Rate Environment**



Short Term Yields	Yield*
Checking/Sweep	0.00%
3M US Treasury Bill	5.46%
6M US Treasury Bill	5.51%
6M CD Average	2.16%
Morningstar Taxable Money Market Median	5.04%
Sample Ultra-Short Bond Manager Average	6.02%

Sources: FactSet, Bankrate, Morningstar Direct, Baird, Payden & Rygel. As of August 31, 2023. \*Yield for Money Market is 7-day yield.

- Government money market strategies yield over 5% in the current environment as the U.S. yield curve remains inverted.
- Ultra-short bond strategies provide an attractive yield premium over cash and Treasuries if a higher total return profile is warranted.

Short-Term Portfolio Considerations

### **Implementation Preferences**

 Government money market funds should be the primary strategy for liquid cash needs

- Provides an attractive yield and liquidity profile compared to CDs and individual Treasuries
- Use of CDs and laddered bond portfolios typically not a preferred approach
- Combine government money market strategies with ultra-short bond strategies if a total return oriented solution is needed, being cognizant of time horizon and liquidity needs
- Customized approaches to match cash flows can be a potential solution depending on the size of the portfolio and unique needs and objectives of clients

## Implementation Strategies – Pros & Cons

Approaches	Observations	Pros	Cons
Government Money Market	Preferred implementation strategy for cash needs Money market fund consisting of Treasuries and other government related securities	<ul> <li>Attractive current yields</li> <li>Daily liquid</li> <li>Stable NAV</li> <li>Not subject to bank risk</li> <li>U.S. Government backed securities minimize credit risk</li> <li>Not subject to potential liquidity fees like Prime funds</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Purchased funds need to be traded</li> <li>Slight lag in transferring assets outside of custodial account</li> <li>May have yields slightly lower than other non-gov't money market products</li> </ul>
Individual Treasuries	Individual U.S. Treasury securities with varying maturities across the yield curve	<ul> <li>Attractive current yields</li> <li>Limits interest rate risk if held to maturity</li> <li>Minimal credit risk, backed by the U.S. government</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Limits return potential should the market environment shift</li> <li>Unforeseen liquidity needs may result sales at a loss</li> <li>Operational considerations having to reinvest at maturity</li> </ul>
CDs	Bank certificate of deposits that have varying maturities, typically 1-18 months.	<ul> <li>Known yield for duration of contract</li> <li>Not subject to interest rate risk</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not liquid</li> <li>Introduce credit risk above FDIC insurance limits (\$250K)</li> <li>Operational considerations of having to roll CDs</li> <li>May be subject to penalties and fees if withdrawn early</li> <li>Given illiquidity, may miss on greater return opportunities depending on the market environment</li> </ul>

## Implementation Strategies – Pros & Cons

Approaches	Observations	Pros	Cons
Ultra-Short Fixed Income Strategies	Preferred implementation method of a total return strategy Typically, strategies have ½ - 1 year of duration, consist of government, corporate and securitized securities	<ul> <li>Higher total return potential</li> <li>Separate accounts or pooled vehicles depending on size</li> <li>Pooled vehicles offer attractive liquidity</li> <li>Lower interest rate risk due to low duration profile</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Subject to mark to market volatility and potential for losses</li> <li>Longer time horizon</li> </ul>
Custom Cash Flow Matching	A potential solution depending on the size of the portfolio and unique objectives	<ul> <li>Can meet specific cash flows needs in the future if known</li> <li>Helps minimize interest rate risk</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Limits overall return potential in changing market conditions</li> <li>Could be more costly to implement</li> </ul>
Laddered Bond Portfolios	Traditional laddered bond portfolio at specified maturities	<ul> <li>Known cash flow timing</li> <li>More insulated in rising rate environments</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Greater operational burden</li> <li>Less diversified and potentially subject to more credit risk</li> <li>Reinvestment risk if rates move lower</li> <li>Unforeseen cash flow needs may result in losses</li> </ul>

### **Investment Factors to Consider**



amounts known?

## A Spectrum of Portfolio Solutions

#### **Most Conservative Cash Needs**

- Short time horizon and heavy reliance on pool for operating needs.
- Largest allocation to money market strategies to maintain liquidity and protect portfolio value
- · Minimal if any other investment strategies

#### Shorter Time Horizon

#### Maintain a Preference for Liquidity

- Majority of assets in money market strategies given the short-time horizon
- Ability to add ultra-short duration, total returnoriented, fixed income strategies depending on the risk tolerance of the organization



Used as source

of funds

#### Focus on Liquidity but Consider Total Return Options

- Portion in money market to meet known or unknown liquidity needs
- Invest portion not expected to be used in 12 months in ultra-short duration, total returnoriented, fixed income strategies
- If large enough and there is a known cash flow schedule, a custom approach to matching cash flows may be an option

Longer Time Horizon

#### **Total Return Focused Approach**

- Larger allocations to ultra-short duration, total return-oriented, fixed income strategies
- Modest allocations to government money market strategies for unforeseen cash needs
- Ability to add small allocation to intermediate duration or dynamic bond strategies depending on risk tolerance, and other unique objectives

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