

# Aspiriant Risk-Managed Municipal Bond Fund RMMBX | Q4 2022

\*\*\*\*

Risk-Adjusted Return

Below Average

304

### **Investment Objective**

The Aspiriant Risk-Managed Municipal Bond Fund ("RMMBX" or the "Fund") seeks total return on investment through income exempt from regular federal income taxes and through capital appreciation.

Fund Statistics	
Inception Date <sup>1</sup>	8/1/2008
Fund Size (Millions)	\$877.92
# of Holdings <sup>2</sup>	757
% Assets in Top 10 Holdings	17.39%
Net Expense Ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.42%
Direct Net Expense Ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.32%
Yield to Maturity <sup>4</sup>	4.76%
Morningstar Statistics*	
Category	US Fund Municipal National Intermediate
Rating Overall	****

### Key Characteristics

Investments in Category

(as of 12/31/2022)

Criteria

Fee Level

- Distinct Investment Opportunities The Fund employs reputable sub-advisers and managers that bring value to the portfolio.
- Flexibility The Fund has flexibility investing in all types of municipal securities and credit exposures depending on the market environment.
- Risk-Managed Approach The Fund has the ability to employ risk-hedging strategies and the adviser is very focused on downside risk.

#### Description

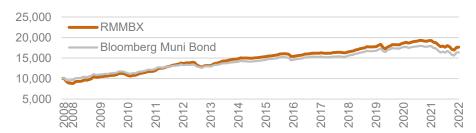
- The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in municipal securities that pay income that is exempt from regular federal personal income tax.
- The Fund may invest in all types of municipal securities, including general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, and participation interests in municipal
- The Fund may invest significantly in high yield municipal securities, which are securities rated below investment grade. The adviser may change the Fund's exposures from time-to-time, which in turn results in higher or lower levels of risk.

### **Annualized Returns**

						Since
	QTD	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year	Inception
RMMBX	3.23%	-8.40%	-0.25%	1.63%	2.62%	4.02%
Bloomberg Muni Bond	4.10%	-8.53%	-0.77%	1.25%	2.13%	3.49%

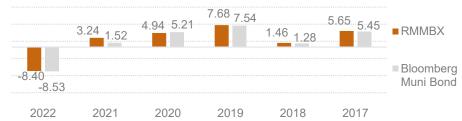
Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investments may lose value over time. Performance is annualized for periods greater than one year. Indices are unmanaged and have no fees. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. All Fund performance is quoted net of all fees and expenses which reduce performance.

# Growth of \$10,000 Since Inception



The chart illustrates the net performance of a hypothetical \$10,000 investment made in the Fund since inception. Figures include reinvestment of capital gains and dividends, but do not reflect the effect of any applicable redemption fees which would lower these figures. An investor cannot invest in an index. This chart is not intended to imply any future performance of the Fund. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

### Calendar Year Returns (%)



Net investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current net performance may be lower or higher than the performance information quoted. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month-end, please call 1.877.997.9971. The performance returns for the Fund reflect a fee waiver in effect. In absence of such waiver, the net returns would be reduced.

The Bloomberg Municipal Bond Index ("Bloomberg Muni Bond") does not incur fees. The volatility and performance of the index will be different than an investor's experience in the Fund. Bloomberg Muni Bond is an uninvestable, unmanaged index that is a rules-based, market-valueweighted index engineered for the long-term tax-exempt bond market. The index has four main sectors: general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, insured bonds and pre-refunded bonds. <sup>1</sup>The Fund commenced operations on 7/1/2015, after the conversion of a private fund (the "Private Fund") into shares of the Fund. The performance prior to 7/1/2015 is for the Private Fund, which commenced operations on 8/1/2008. The Private Fund was not registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 and was not subject to certain restrictions under that Act, but if the Private Fund had been registered, it is possible the performance may have been adversely affected. The Fund's objectives, policies, guidelines and restrictions are, in all material respects, equivalent to those of the Private Fund. <sup>2</sup>Excludes cash and cash equivalents. <sup>3</sup>As of 8/1/2022. The net expense ratio applicable to investors is 0.42%. Direct net expense ratio does not include acquired fund fees and expenses which were reported to be 0.10%. 4Yield to Maturity is the total return anticipated on a bond, if the bond is held until the end of its lifetime. It is expressed as an annual rate. \*Please reference Summary of Terms and Additional Disclosures.

#### Sub-Advisers / Funds

### Nuveen Asset Management, LLC

Nuveen Asset Management, LLC ("Nuveen") is a sub-adviser of the Fund. Nuveen provides customized investments that match client needs and seeks to provide returns that are consistent and research-driven.

### Allspring Global Investments, LLC

Allspring Global Investments, LLC ("Allspring"), formerly, Wells Capital Management, Inc., is a sub-adviser of the Fund. Allspring is a relative-value manager that applies a bottom-up credit research team approach to constructing risk-managed tax-exempt portfolios.

# MacKay Shields, LLC

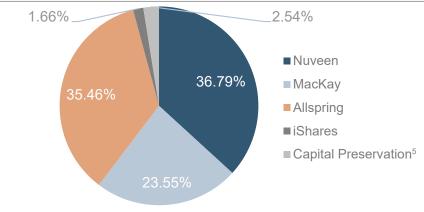
MacKay Shields, LLC ("MacKay") is a sub-adviser of the Fund and also manages two limited partnerships<sup>6</sup> within the Fund. MacKay is a fundamental relative-value bond manager that applies both a top-down overlay and bottom-up credit research in the construction of U.S. tax-exempt and taxable municipal portfolios.

#### iShares National Muni Bond ETF

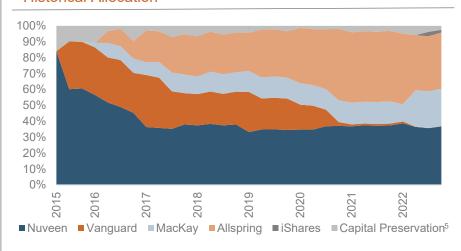
The iShares National Muni Bond ETF ("iShares") seeks to track the investment results of an index composed of investment-grade U.S. municipal bonds.



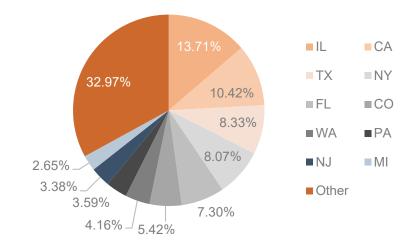
# Strategy Allocations<sup>2</sup>



#### Historical Allocation<sup>2</sup>



#### State Allocations<sup>7</sup>



<sup>5</sup>The capital preservation segment (cash and cash alternatives) is intended to preserve capital, generate income and provide liquidity. The segment is not guaranteed by the FDIC, or any government agency, and my lose value. <sup>6</sup>MacKay Municipal Opportunities Fund, L.P. and MacKay Municipal Credit Opportunities Fund, L.P. <sup>7</sup>As a percentage of invested assets. Excludes cash, cash equivalents and closed-end fund investments. <sup>8</sup>Ratings shown are the highest rating given by one of the following national rating agencies; S&P, Moody's or Fitch. Credit ratings are subject to changes. AAA, AA, A, and BBB are investment grade ratings. Those below BBB are below investment grade ratings. <sup>9</sup>Excludes closed-end fund investments. *Average Duration* is a time measure of a bond's interest-rate sensitivity, based on the weighted average of the time periods over which a bond's cash flows accrue to the bondholder. Time periods are weighted by multiplying by the present value of its cash flow divided by the bond's price. (A bond's cash flows consist of coupon payments and repayment of capital.) *Average Maturity* is the weighted average of the maturities of the underlying bonds. The measure is computed by weighing each bond's maturity by its market value with respect to the portfolio.

### Return Statistics: Since Inception

	RMMBX	Benchmark
Return	4.02%	3.49%
Sharpe Ratio	0.65	0.61
Average Gain	1.03%	0.95%
Average Loss	-1.19%	-1.17%
Up Capture Ratio	107.05	100.00
Down Capture Ratio	100.08	100.00

### Risk Statistics: Since Inception

	RMMBX	Benchmark
Standard Deviation	5.29%	4.65%
Beta	1.06	1.00
Average Drawdown	-3.96%	-3.47%
Max Drawdown	-12.45%	-13.19%
Tracking Error	1.95	0.00
$R^2$	86.64	100.00

### **Fund Performance Comparison and Summary**

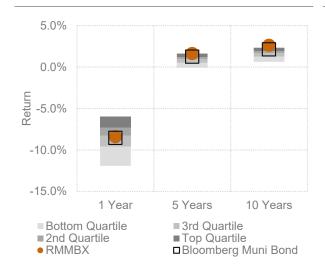
RMMBX returned 3.23% during the fourth quarter, underperforming its benchmark, the Bloomberg Muni Bond, which returned 4.10%.

Both municipal core and municipal high yield issues were positively impacted during the period on strong fundamentals and falling interest rate expectations. The Fund's allocation to high yield represented approximately 12% of its investments. Core positions and cash accounted for 85% and 3%, respectively, of overall exposures at quarter end. The total Private Funds Composite generated a net return of 3.69% for the quarter.

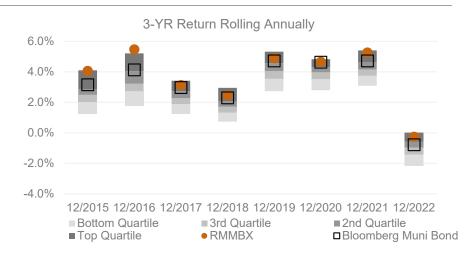
Inception is 8/1/2008. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investments may lose value over time. Performance is annualized for periods greater than one year. Indices are unmanaged and have no fees. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. All Fund performance is quoted net of all fees and expenses which reduce performance.

Bloomberg Muni Bond does not incur fees. The volatility and performance of the index will be different than an investor's experience in the Fund. Bloomberg Muni Bond is an uninvestable, unmanaged index that is a rules-based, market-value-weighted index engineered for the long-term tax-exempt bond market. Sharpe Ratio is a risk adjusted measure calculated by using standard deviation and excess return to determine reward per unit of risk. Average Gain is a geometric average of the periods with a gain. It is calculated by compounding the returns for gain periods where rates of return are greater than or equal to 0 and then the monthly average is calculated. Average Loss is a geometric average of the periods with a loss. It is calculated by compounding the returns for loss periods where rates of return are less than 0 and then the monthly average is calculated. Up Capture Ratio measures overall performance of the portfolio in up-markets relative to an index during periods when that index has risen. The Up Capture ratio is calculated by taking the fund's monthly return during months when the benchmark had a positive return and dividing it by the benchmark return during that same month. Down Capture Ratio measures overall performance of the portfolio in down-markets relative to an index during periods when that index has dropped. The Down Capture ratio is calculated by taking the fund's monthly return during the periods of negative benchmark performance and dividing it by the benchmark return. Standard Deviation is computed using the trailing monthly total returns for the appropriate time period. All of the monthly standard deviations are then annualized. Beta is a measure of the volatility, or systematic risk, of a security or a portfolio in comparison to the market as a whole. Average Drawdown is the average of yearly Maximum Drawdown measures. This statistic serves as a downside risk measure, and the industry standard is to calculate this over a three-year period using monthly data. In this case, maximum drawdown measures are calculated for the first 12 months, the next 12 months, and the subsequent 12 months, and the average drawdown is the average of these 3 maximum drawdown numbers. *Max Drawdown* is the peak to trough decline during a specific record period of an investment or fund using monthly data. It is usually quoted as the percentage between the peak to the trough. Tracking Error tells the difference between the performance of a portfolio and its benchmark. R2 or R-squared measures the relationship between a portfolio and its benchmark.

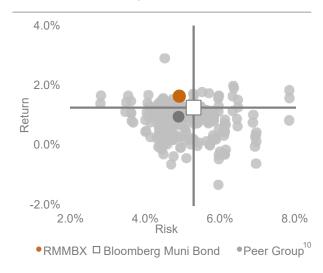
### Performance Relative to Peer Group<sup>10</sup>



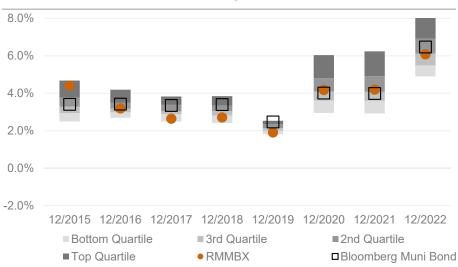
# 3-Year Return Rolling



#### Return vs Risk: 5 Year Annualized



# 3-Year Standard Deviation Rolling

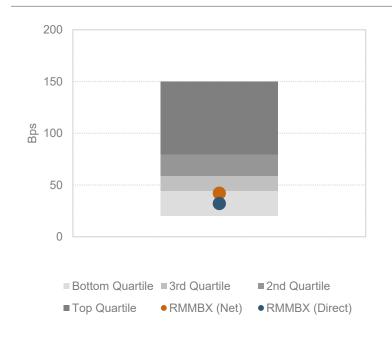


Inception is 8/1/2008. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investments may lose value over time. Performance is annualized for periods greater than one year. Indices are unmanaged and have no fees. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. All Fund performance is quoted net of all fees and expenses which reduce performance. Bloomberg Muni Bond does not incur fees. The volatility and performance of the index will be different than an investor's experience in the Fund.

<sup>10</sup>Peer Group is US Open End Funds in the Morningstar Municipal National Intermediate Category.

#### Fund Facts Ticker Symbol **RMMBX CUSIP** 04537J102 Minimum Purchase Amount No Minimum Income Quarterly; Dividends Capital Gains Annually 12b-1 Fee None Redemption Fee None Gross Expense Ratio<sup>11</sup> 0.55% Net Expense Ratio<sup>11</sup> 0.42% Direct Net Expense Ratio<sup>11</sup> 0.32% SEC 30-Day Yield<sup>12</sup> 3.33% Taxable-Equivalent Yield 5.63% (SEC 30-Day)<sup>12</sup> SEC 30-Day Unsubsidized Yield<sup>12</sup> 3.20% Distribution Rate on NAV<sup>12</sup> 0.98% **More Information** aspiriantfunds.com 1.877.997.9971

# Net Expense Ratio Relative to Peer Group<sup>10,11</sup>



### Monthly Investment Returns

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2022	-2.31	-0.49	-2.72	-2.46	0.74	-1.61	2.25	-1.57	-3.56	-0.89	3.82	0.32	-8.40
2021	0.86	-1.04	0.62	1.15	0.47	0.42	0.85	-0.19	-0.68	-0.19	0.76	0.18	3.24
2020	1.74	1.42	-4.45	-1.88	2.82	1.22	1.85	0.00	-0.05	-0.10	1.45	1.01	4.94
2019	0.60	0.60	1.40	0.59	1.28	0.59	0.68	1.54	-0.28	0.00	0.10	0.33	7.68
2018	-0.59	-0.40	0.32	-0.20	1.00	0.27	0.20	0.20	-0.40	-0.60	0.61	1.05	1.46
2017	0.61	0.60	0.40	0.60	1.30	0.00	0.50	0.79	0.00	0.10	-0.20	0.83	5.65
2016	0.79	0.20	0.44	0.69	0.39	1.41	0.29	0.19	-0.19	-0.77	-3.22	0.24	0.38
2015	1.28	-0.41	0.33	-0.25	-0.20	-0.16	0.70	0.10	0.60	0.50	0.30	0.62	3.44
2014	2.69	1.58	0.68	1.42	1.79	0.38	0.27	1.17	0.69	0.72	0.12	0.81	13.01
2013	1.12	0.48	-0.23	1.23	-0.95	-4.53	-1.70	-2.07	2.49	0.83	-0.13	-0.02	-3.61
2012	3.46	0.78	-0.09	1.52	1.55	0.25	2.04	0.65	1.06	0.65	2.12	-1.21	13.47
2011	-1.22	1.81	0.01	1.81	2.25	0.83	1.04	1.24	1.37	-0.23	0.51	2.02	11.99
2010	0.30	0.95	0.24	1.01	0.64	0.17	1.41	2.51	0.20	-0.20	-2.38	-2.20	2.57
2009	4.75	1.21	-0.25	1.27	2.34	-0.62	1.72	2.21	5.39	-1.99	0.57	0.99	18.81
2008								0.52^	-6.98	-4.75	-0.53	-0.65	-11.99^
Since Inception Return (Annualized)						4.02%	5	Since Incep	tion Sharp	e Ratio			0.65
Since Inception Standard Deviation (Annualized)						5.30%	5	Since Incep	tion Beta				1.06

<sup>11</sup>As of 8/1/2022. The adviser has contractually agreed to waive its advisory fee from 0.27% to 0.21% and administrative services fee from 0.10% to 0.03% through 7/31/2023. Each arrangement may be terminated only by the Aspiriant Trust's Board of Trustees. The net expense ratio applicable to investors is 0.42%. Direct net expense ratio does not include acquired fund fees and expenses which were reported to be 0.10%. <sup>12</sup>The SEC 30-Day Yield is computed under an SEC standardized formula and is based on the most recent trailing 30-day period. The Fund's actual distribution rate will differ from the SEC yield, and any income distributions from the Fund may be higher or lower than the SEC yield. The Taxable-Equivalent Yield is the return that is required on a taxable investment to make it equal to the return on a tax-exempt investment. The Taxable-Equivalent Yield is based on the SEC 30-Day Yield on the indicated date and a federal income tax rate of 40.8% (maximum federal income tax rate and the Medicare tax). Distribution Rate on NAV is the latest declared annual distribution per share, divided by NAV per share, as of 12/31/2022. Distributions may be paid from sources other than ordinary income, such as short-term capital gains, long-term capital gains or return of capital. Investors should consider their own tax rate when investing in municipal bonds. Unsubsidized yields do not reflect fee waivers in effect. <sup>A</sup>Fund's inception (8/1/2008) to date. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. All investments may lose value over time. Performance is annualized for periods greater than one year. Indices are unmanaged and have no fees. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. All Fund performance is quoted net of all fees and expenses which reduce performance. Bloomberg Muni Bond does not incur fees. The volatility and performance of the index will be different than an investor's experience in the Fund.

### Summary of Terms and Additional Disclosures

This material must be preceded or accompanied by a <u>prospectus</u>. Please consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. The prospectus that contains this and other information about the Fund is available in print by calling 1.877.997.9971 and should be read carefully prior to investing.

An investment in the Fund is subject to risks, and you could lose money on your investment in the Fund. The Fund is exposed to the same risks that are associated with investing in underlying municipal securities owned by the Fund. The Fund is subject to interest rate risk; as interest rates rise, bond prices generally fall. Credit risk arises from an issuer's ability to make interest and principal payments when due, as well as the prices of bonds declining when an issuer's credit quality is expected to deteriorate. Investments in below investment grade or high yield securities are subject to liquidity risk and heightened credit risk. Investments in securities of non-U.S. issuers or U.S. issuers with significant non-U.S. operations may present more risk. The Fund may invest in illiquid securities, which may or may not be sold or disposed of in the ordinary course of business.

The use of derivatives involves substantial financial risks and transaction costs. Certain derivatives may be illiquid. The Fund's use of inverse floaters may magnify the potential for losses. The Fund periodically engages in portfolio leverage and when doing so, assumes a higher level of risk in pursuit of its objectives. Leverage involves the risk that the Fund could lose more than its original investment and also increases the Fund's exposure to volatility, interest rate risk and credit risk.

These and other risk considerations, such as preferred securities, call, counterparty, extension, defaulted securities, income, municipal lease obligations, political and economic, prepayment, restricted securities, tax, zero coupon bond risks, and, as a result of investing in underlying funds, short sale risk, are described in detail in the Fund's prospectus.

Portfolio composition will change due to ongoing management of the Fund. References to specific securities should not be construed as a recommendation by the Fund, the adviser, the sub-advisers or distributor.

Any opinions or views expressed herein are of Aspiriant portfolio managers and may change at any time without prior notice.

Information was sourced from independent third-party sources we believe are reliable, but the accuracy of such information is not guaranteed by Aspiriant. Any statistical information contained herein has been obtained from publicly available market data (such as, but not limited to, data published by Bloomberg Finance L.P. and its affiliates), internal research and regulatory filings.

The Morningstar Rating<sup>TM</sup> for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. ETFs and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods. RMMBX was rated against the following numbers of US-domiciled US Fund Municipal National Intermediate funds over the following time period: 256 funds in the last three years and 214 funds in the last five years. With respect to US Fund Municipal National Intermediate funds, RMMBX received a Morningstar Rating of five stars and five stars for the three- and five-year periods. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

©2023. Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Recent performance may have been negative.

The Morningstar Fee Level rating is objective, based entirely on a mathematical evaluation of a share class's expense ratio relative to similar funds.