



Information prepared for:

Non-profit Financial Managers

10/26/2023

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Cash Investment Policy Discussion

What is Cash Investment Policy

Cash Investment is a set of policies and procedures to establish a holistic program for the investment of an organization's cash balances.

Objectives:

1. Find the optimal balance among safety, yield and liquidity.
2. Meet cash flow obligations as they come due.
3. Avoid any mismatch between an investment's maturity and budgeted liquidity needs.
4. Account for potential unanticipated or surprise events.
5. Build in accountability and risk management.



First Steps

1. Review Cash Flows and Create a Cash Forecast

- a) Consider your types of A/R (reimbursement, grants, pledges, etc.) and any potential risks (i.e. government shut down, stock market decline impacting funders/sponsors).
- b) Incorporate other potential uses of cash.

2. Segment your Cash into categories based on time horizon of liquidity needs and purpose.

- a) Operating: same day liquidity to fund operating needs.
- b) Goals Based: Capital: 6 months + liquidity depending on capital budget or Program Reserve: 6-12 month liquidity for growth/expansion.
- c) Excess Reserves: Greater than 1 year; undesignated reserves.

3. Clearly state the investment objectives.

- a) Key Items: Liquidity (how much of a potential wait or “hold” on accessing an investment is your organization comfortable with), total returns (capital appreciation + interest + dividends) goal, Risk tolerance – safety (potential changes in value), performance to benchmark, permissible investments.

4. Consider the implementation and oversight apparatus

- a) Who approves? What are the individual responsibilities? Who is monitoring? How to handle Exceptions? Who has final approval?
- b) In-house or outside manager. Think about the internal resources (portfolio management, credit risk, controls). Increase in complexity may require additional infrastructure.

Example Investment Objectives

When thinking about a cash investment strategy the following items, while not exhaustive, may be investment objectives. An organization would work to prioritize the objectives in order of importance.

1. Protecting Principal – Safety: (this is typically a primary cash investment objective for organizations).
2. Maintaining an appropriate daily liquidity level.
 - a) Could be based on Days Cash on Hand Target or Monthly Cash Operating Expense or specific reserve targets (x months G&A+ x months staff MTD+ x months Benefits+ x months safety cushion).
3. Providing reliable income for the organization.
 - a) Is a consistent income expectation desired? Note: seeking higher yields could correspond with increasing volatility, which should always be taken into account.
4. Obtain returns that beat a benchmark
 - a) A good benchmark is straightforward, consistent with the asset allocation and risk/return profile, and available to the public, for example US Treasury Bills Indices.

Risk Tolerance – a Primary Concern

It is important to think through and clearly state your organization's tolerance for the possibility of not being able to raise cash and to also identify any mitigants you have put in place to address any risk that may be prudently taken.

Key Questions and examples of potential risk:

1. How do you feel about the possibility of paying a liquidity fee in times of market stress?
2. How do you feel about potential unrealized portfolio losses due to interest rate changes?
3. What are your credit risk parameters?
4. Can you accept some level of short term volatility?
5. What are acceptable realized gains/losses in a current period?
6. What investments are permissible?
7. What is the time horizon and accompanying investment strategy for each cash segment?
8. Are there any values based screening that should be incorporated?
9. Does currency risk exist (i.e. international organizations).

Governance

It is important to have clearly defined responsibilities incorporated into the policy. A form of the following should be incorporated:

1. Roles and Responsibilities.
2. What are the reporting and monitoring requirements?
3. How often will the plan be reviewed and updated?
4. Who will assess and update liquidity targets and cash segmentation targets?
5. Create a process for dealing with exceptions to the policy.
6. Final approval of the policy and future updates, amendments?

Other Related Considerations

This is a list of some other items that might be directly or indirectly related to your work of preparing a cash investment policy:

1. Fraud Prevention
 - a) Fraudsters are increasingly sophisticated and very active.
 - b) Items such as Positive Pay; Dual authentication ACH and Wire, Alerts and Daily Monitoring are highly encouraged.
2. Contract Changes
3. Debt / Lease repayment schedules – balloon payments or potential line of credit demand.
4. Major Repairs/Maintenance – Capital Planning
5. Other Revenue or Expense Risk
6. This also may also be an opportunity to review strategies to increase cash levels; i.e. A/P terms, credit card utilization (aka float and statement cycle management), A/R improvements.

Elements of a Cash Investment Policy Statement (1 of 2)

1. Introduction

- a) Statement of purpose for the policy.

2. Delegation of Authority

- a) Who reviews and approves. Who is delegated with responsibility to execute.

3. Scope

- a) Identify various funds governed by the policy.

4. Objectives

- a) List primary investment objectives in order of priority. For example: 1. Preservation of Capital, 2. Liquidity, and 3. Optimize the investment return within the constraints.

5. Standards of Care

- a) Prudence – “prudent person” standard.
- b) Ethics and Conflicts of Interest.
- c) Investment Advisor.

6. Authorized or Permissible Investments

- a) List of various instruments allowed and maximum maturity and credit parameters.
- b) Include any ESG or related initiatives that may be applicable.

Elements of a Cash Investment Policy Statement (2 of 2)

7. Diversification Parameters

- a) Indicate the maximum percentage of total cash governed by the policy that can be invested in certain sectors (can include a sector and/or per issuer maximum).

8. Safekeeping and Custody parameters

- a) Reporting requirements, custodian internal controls requirements (SOC audits).

9. Performance Standards/Evaluation

- a) Benchmark identification and return targets.

10. Reporting

- a) Detail reporting requirements for both internal and investment advisor management of funds.

11. Policy Exceptions

- a) Who can approve, process if applicable.



Exhibits & Disclosures

Insured Cash Sweep Products

How Does Insured Cash Sweep (ICS) Work

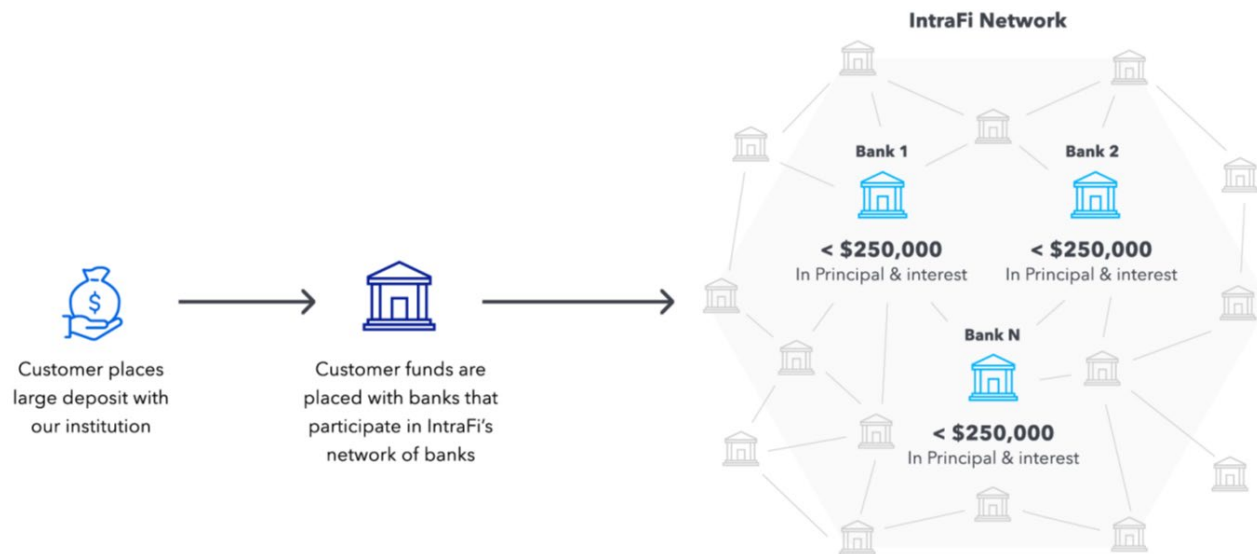
Many banks are members of the ICS network. When a bank uses ICS to place funds, that deposit is divided into amounts under the standard FDIC insurance maximum of \$250,000 and housed in deposit accounts at other FDIC-insured banks that participate in the same network.

Clients will typically receive just one monthly statement detailing all of their placements, and, as always, confidential client information will remain protected.

Here is the link to see if your bank participates in the IntraFi services:

<https://www.intrafinetworkdeposits.com/find-intrafi-network-deposits/>

Through just one bank relationship, organizations can access FDIC-insured deposits from over 3,000 other member network depository institutions.

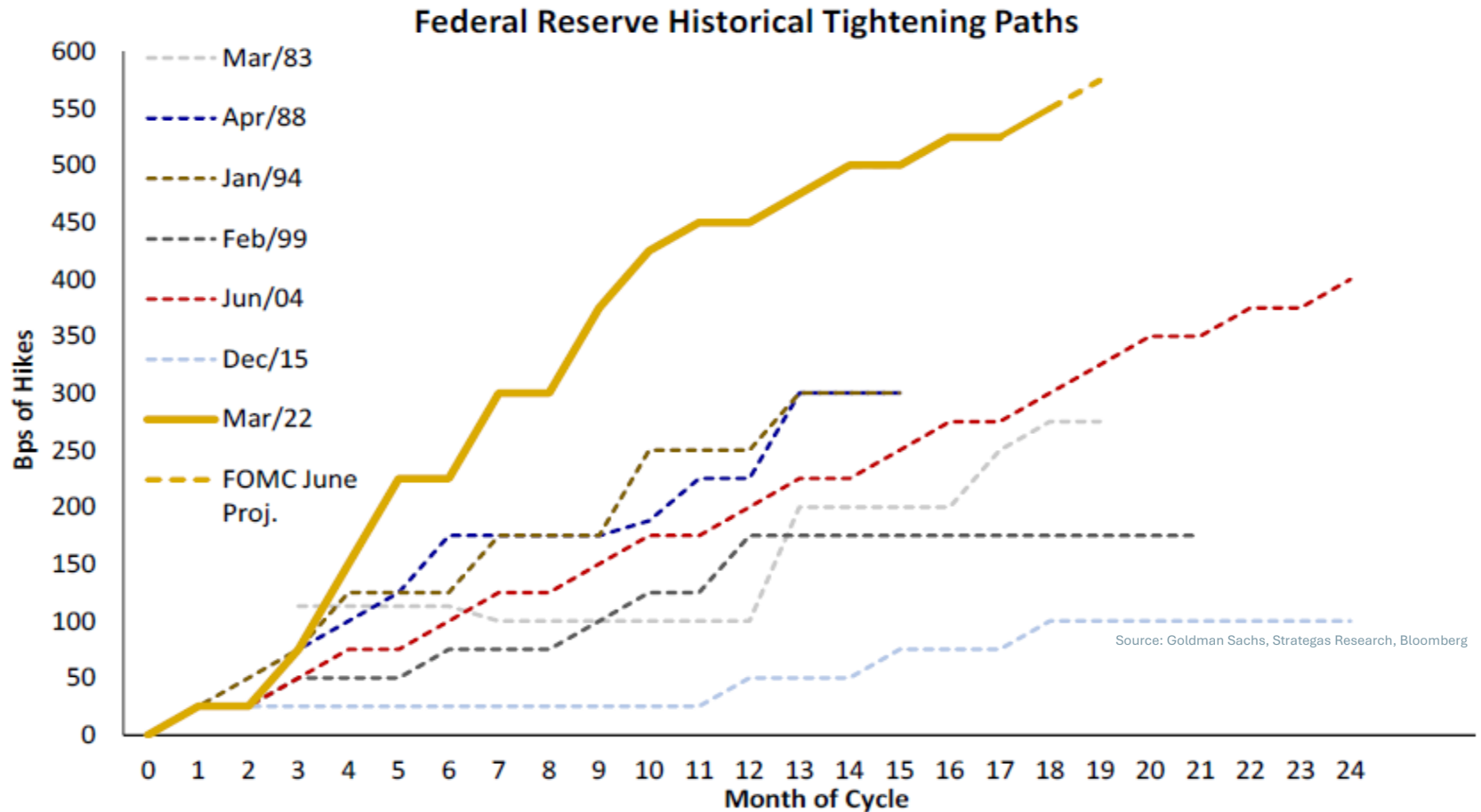


The depositor must have or set up a transaction account with a Bank for the use of ICS.

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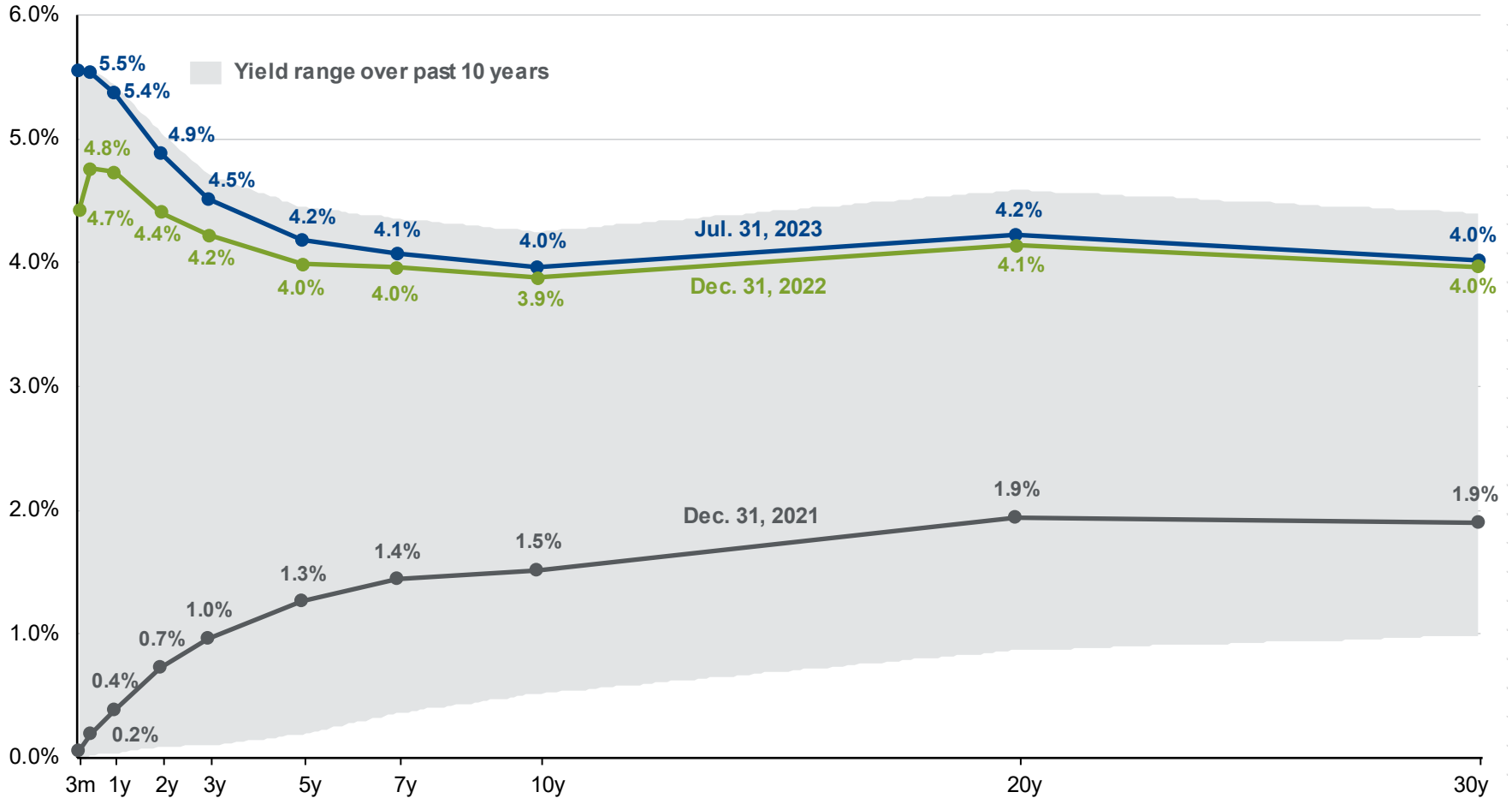
Interest Rates

The largest increase in the Fed Funds rate hike in history also occurred the fastest.



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U.S. Treasury yield curve



Source: FactSet, Federal Reserve, J.P. Morgan Asset Management. *Guide to the Markets – U.S.* Data are as of July 31, 2023
Information presented is market based data, not performance.

Yield curve: This page shows the U.S. Treasury yield curve as of the most recent date, year-end 2022 and year-end 2021. As the Federal Reserve aggressively hiked interest rates in 2022, the front-end of the curve rose significantly. The back end of the curve rose as well, but has flattened as growth concerns weigh on long rates.

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Portfolio Fixed Income Sample Proposal

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