

## **Recent Market Volatility and Illinois Trust's Commitment to Safety of Public Fund Investments**

March 16, 2020

The equity and bond markets have made headlines recently with extraordinary volatility. Most impactful for public fund investors is the emergency announcement Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> by the Federal Reserve that it was reducing the target overnight rate by 1.00% to a range of 0.00% to 0.25%. This followed an earlier rate reduction of 0.50% on March 3. Yields for Treasury bonds and similar securities have fallen dramatically, and those lower yields will ripple through bank offerings and investment portfolios like Illinois Trust.

PFM, as investment advisor and administrator to Illinois Trust, is actively working to ensure that Illinois Trust's investments continue to be aligned with the Trust's goals of safety of principal, liquidity to invest and redeem shares, and a market rate of return. We have process and systems focused on trading, review, and compliance for safeguarding public assets and will continue to rely on them during this time. These include:

1. Frequently reviewing Illinois Trust's investments valuation to ensure market changes do not adversely affect current investments. Illinois Trust's goal for its portfolio is to maintain a stable net asset value of one dollar in securities (by market value) for every dollar of investment. The Trust's permitted investments are limited to only high quality, short maturity investments, which alleviates much of the risks involved when interest rates move quickly. With the heightened market volatility PFM has added more frequent pricing checks to ensure the stable net asset value is maintained.
2. Updating model scenarios to stress test the portfolios. We routinely look at "what if" scenarios for the Illinois portfolio seeking to anticipate impacts to quick changes in liquidity or interest rates. Our natural bias toward safety and liquidity has benefited the Illinois portfolio thus far and our stress testing has not shown reason for concern.
3. Managing the portfolio to ensure adequate liquidity. Pursuant to board policy and consistent with the S&P AAAM rating criteria, a substantial portion of the Illinois portfolio is included in cash, daily and weekly liquidity buckets calculated pursuant to Securities and Exchange Commission criteria also utilized for registered money market mutual funds. The diversity of our investor community is one of our strengths and we are confident in the balance of invested funds for liquidity needs.

We anticipate no interruption in working with Illinois Trust investors. During this time we have asked our employees to limit their travel and conference participation, and where possible, hold client meetings virtually or by phone. PFM has a liberal leave policy for all employees and we encourage its use, especially for those who do not feel well or

have increased family responsibilities on account of the coronavirus. Many of our employees have been working from home in recent weeks. We have confirmed our capabilities to support remote workers through our systems as one area of our robust business continuity plan and expect to implement a Work from Home plan for most employees shortly.

We appreciate the continued trust you have in investing with Illinois Trust. Please contact your Illinois Trust marketing representative or Client Services at 800-731-6830 if we can help answer any questions about your investments.

*This information is for institutional investor use only, not for further distribution to retail investors, and does not represent an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell any fund or other security. Investors should consider the Trust's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the Trust. This and other information about the Trust is available in the Trust's current Information Statement, which should be read carefully before investing. A copy of the Trust's Information Statement may be obtained by calling 1-800-731-6870 for the IIIT Class and 1-800-731-6830 for the IPDLAF+ Class and is also available on the Trust's websites at [www.iiit.us](http://www.iiit.us) and [www.ipdlaf.org](http://www.ipdlaf.org). While both the IIIT and IPDLAF+ Classes of the Illinois Portfolio seek to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00 per share and the Illinois TERM series seek to achieve a net asset value of \$1.00 per share at its stated maturity, it is possible to lose money investing in the Trust. An investment in the Trust is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency. Shares of the Trust are distributed by **PFM Fund Distributors, Inc.**, member Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) ([www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org)) and Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) ([www.sipc.org](http://www.sipc.org)). PFM Fund Distributors, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of PFM Asset Management LLC.*