Important: The projections or other information shown in this analysis regarding the likelihood of various investment outcomes are hypothetical in nature, pre-tax (do not account or adjust for the deduction of any taxes), do not reflect actual investment results and are not guarantees of future results. Results may vary with each use and over time. These projections are based on capital market assumptions for asset classes like equities, fixed income and cash (as applicable) and do not reflect performance expectations for any specific investment or portfolio of investments.

Goal Target Funding Status Analysis: Methodology, assumptions and limitations

Overview

The Merrill Guided Investing programs (Merrill Guided Investing and Merrill Guided Investing with Advisor; collectively referred to herein as the "Guided Investing Programs" or "Programs") include the option, at your election, to state a goal target dollar amount (the "Goal Target") for the goal aligned with your Program account. If you elect to set a Goal Target, you will have the ability to estimate and track your progress to your Goal Target through a goal target funding status analysis ("Goal Target Funding Status" or the "Analysis"). The Analysis is available through the Program website.

This document describes the Analysis, how we use the information you provide to us, and the methodology, assumptions and limitations of the Analysis. It also describes how some of this information used for the Analysis is the same information used to recommend the target asset mix of equities, fixed income and cash asset classes that your Program account will be managed to ("Target Asset Allocation").

The estimated dollar amounts, percentages and other information presented as part of the Analysis and discussed in this document are educational and informational in nature, do not reflect the actual investment performance of any investor, your Program account, any investment strategy that you may select for your Program account or of the underlying exchange-traded funds ("ETFs") or mutual funds ("Funds") that may be included in such investment strategy. Your actual results could differ significantly for many reasons such as whether you include the cost of taxes in your Goal Target or not. We assume that you include the cost of any taxes you incur for your goal when entering your Goal Target amount and we do not make any additional assumptions to account for or adjust for the deduction of any taxes in the Analysis. To include the impact of taxes in your analysis, you should enter your Goal Target as an amount that reflects the cost of the goal, plus any taxes related to achieving your goal that you expect to incur. Please refer to the "Taxes" section of the "Assumptions and Limitations" for additional information.

There is no guarantee that you will achieve your Goal Target. The estimated dollar amounts and percentages presented as part of the Goal Target Funding Status estimates, the related characterization of the overall funding status (*e.g.*, On or Off track; see "Overall Status" section on p. 2 for all goal funding statuses), and other values presented in the Analysis are not a guarantee of future results or the future value of your Program account. Moreover, they are not a guarantee of any specific level of performance or rate of return for your Program account, any Target Asset Allocation or strategy that we or a Program advisor (if applicable) may recommend on your behalf and do not predict actual future performance.

The Analysis is based on, and uses, certain of the same information you have provided to us for your goal that serves as the basis for our recommended Target Asset Allocation for your Program account assets. In addition, the Analysis analyzes or incorporates certain information regarding any other assets not held in your Program account that you have chosen to align to your Goal Target ("External Assets"). External Assets can be bank accounts from Bank of America or investment accounts from Merrill ("Linked accounts") and/or external accounts provided by you ("External accounts"). External Assets aligned to your Goal Target will be considered by us to provide advice for your Program account. If you choose to align External Assets to your Goal Target, that may produce a different recommended Target Asset Allocation and investment strategy than if you had not included them. We are not an investment adviser with respect to External Assets and therefore we will not advise you on External Assets.

Understanding the Analysis and Key Information

In general, the Analysis estimates whether you are on track to reach your Goal Target by comparing the estimated amount of assets you would need to invest today to reach your Goal Target to the estimated amount of assets you have indicated that you are planning to use toward your Goal Target. Besides the Goal Target, the Analysis incorporates additional information you provide such as your goal's risk tolerance ("Risk Tolerance") and time horizon ("Time Horizon").

In connection with the question "Am I on track to reach my goal?" the Analysis shows the following key pieces of information that are important for you to understand:

- "**What you need (Estimated Goal Cost)**": This hypothetical amount represents the estimated cost or "price" of your desired Goal Target. It is the estimated value of the assets in current dollars that you would need to invest today at the recommended Target Asset Allocation – given our assumptions and the Time Horizon – to reach your Goal Target within the Confidence Level established by the Risk Tolerance level for your Program account. The Estimated Goal Cost is significantly impacted by the Confidence Level (or "Likelihood") used and Time Horizon information provided as described in the "How does it work?" section in this document. Please also note that the Estimated Goal Cost value presented is a gross value that does not account or adjust for the deduction of any taxes. If you want to include the estimated impact of taxes, the Goal Target amount should reflect the target amount to fund your goal plus any taxes you may incur (e.g. income tax, sales tax, capital gains). More information regarding taxes can be found in the "Taxes" section within "Assumptions and Limitations".

- **"Where you are at (Estimated Available Assets)"**: This hypothetical amount represents the estimated value, also in today's dollars, of the available assets you have stated are or will be aligned to the Goal Target. This estimated value is calculated based on various assumptions and incorporates your initial intended investment or current assets in your Program account (if already enrolled in one of the Guided Investing Programs), any future contributions that you have indicated for your Program account, and any External Assets you have stated are or will be aligned to the Goal Target. Please note the bar on the chart is broken into two estimated parts: **"Current available assets":** This represents the estimated amount of assets available today; and **"Estimated future income and contributions"**: This part represents the estimated anticipated future assets and income.
  - **"Goal Funding Mix"**: This chart is a different, more detailed view of **"Estimated Available Assets"** that is shown when you provide External Assets to include with your Program account assets as part of the Analysis for the Goal Target.
    - The **"Guided Investing"** section shows information about your initial intended investment or current assets (if already enrolled) and any future contributions that you have indicated for your Program account which is the only account for which we provide investment advisory and other services through the Program.
    - The **"Other Accounts"** section shows information that you have provided about your current External Assets and any future contributions in an account(s) other than your Program account that you have elected to align to the Goal Target (Other Accounts). Other Accounts can be Linked accounts and/or External accounts. Please refer to the description of "External Assets" in the "Your information for the calculation" section below for additional information on Linked accounts and External accounts. We are not an investment adviser with respect to assets in your Other Accounts and therefore we will not advise you on Other Accounts.
    - The **"Other Income"** section shows estimated future income based on sources outside the Program account that you have elected to align to the Goal Target.

- **"Estimated Funding Percentage"** and **"Overall Status"**:
  - **"The Estimated Funding Percentage"** is the result of dividing the Estimated Available Assets by the Estimated Goal Cost. This percentage value is an estimate of the portion of your Goal Target which can be funded from your Estimated Available Assets based on the Analysis.
  - **"Overall Status"** The label for your Goal's Overall Status based on the Estimated Funding Percentage and can be one of the following five statuses: Exceeding, On Track, Almost On Track, Insufficient, or Off Track.
  - The table below shows the five goal statuses and their corresponding Estimated Funding Percentage ranges:

Overall Status	**Estimated Funding Percentage range**
Exceeding	115% and above
On Track	100% to 114%
Almost On Track	85% to 99%
Insufficient	70% to 84%
Off Track	69% and below

If the Estimated Funding Percentage is below 100% based on the Analysis, the Overall Status of your Goal Target will be one of the three shortfall statuses, as described in the table above: Almost On Track, Insufficient, or Off Track. For example, an Estimated Funding Percentage of 85% means that you are "Almost on Track" as you do not quite have the Estimated Available Assets to fund your Goal Target and can only cover approximately 85% of the corresponding Estimated Goal Cost. An Estimated Funding Percentage of 50% means that you are "Off Track" as you have a significant shortfall in the Estimated Available Assets to fund your Goal Target and can only cover approximately half of the corresponding Estimated Goal Cost. A lower percentage means your Goal Target is severely underfunded.

If the Estimated Funding Percentage is 100% or more based on the Analysis, the Overall Status of your Goal Target is either On Track or Exceeding (as described in the table above). This does not in any way represent a guarantee that you will reach your Goal Target. An Estimated Funding Percentage of 100% or more means that based on the Analysis, there are sufficient Estimated Available Assets aligned to fund your Goal Target and cover the corresponding Estimated Goal Cost. However, please note that as the Risk Tolerance *increases*, the Confidence Level *decreases*, which increases the variability in the estimates. This, in turn, increases the likelihood that a Goal Target with an Estimated Funding Percentage of 100% will not be achieved. Accordingly, even if the Estimated Funding Percentage is 100%, there is some chance that you will not achieve your Goal Target, and that can be significant if the Confidence Level used in the Analysis aligns to a Medium or High Risk Tolerance.

- **"What's my estimated amount?" (Estimated Achievable Amount)":** This view supplements the Goal Target Funding Status to indicate the amount you are estimated to hypothetically achieve compared to your stated Goal Target amount. It is based on the information you have provided to us to calculate your Goal Target Funding Status, including the Confidence Level from your Risk Tolerance, and uses the recommended Target Asset Allocation determined for your goal. Your Estimated Achievable Amount is not guaranteed and is merely intended to provide an additional view to help you understand your Overall Status in tracking to your goal.

Further details about these estimated values and how they are calculated can be found in the "How does it work?" section in this document.

Our methodology

In order to generate the Analysis, we use a combination of information provided by you, various assumptions and a series of calculations as described below.

Your information for the calculation

We use certain of the same information you provided to us through our interactive profiling and goal setting process (the "Online Profiling Process") and your Program Advisor, as applicable, for your Program account for the Analysis. The Analysis assumes the information you provided remains the same for the time period covered by the Analysis. It is important to review your financial situation on a regular basis and if it changes, ensure this and your information is updated as soon as possible. You should also carefully consider the effect of those changes on any course of action you have previously selected. Failure to include up-to-date and complete information will materially impact the results of this Analysis.

The types of information we use for the Analysis include:

- Your Goal Type:
  - "General Investing", "Home", "Family Support", "Travel", "Special Occasion" and "Other Large Purchase" goals: This goal type assumes a single cash outflow at a future date.
  - "Retirement": This goal type assumes a specified series of regular cash outflows in the future starting with your Retirement Age and running through the period specified by your "Years in Retirement".
  - "Education": This goal type assumes a specified series of regular cash outflows in the future starting with the Year Starting School and running through the period specified by your "Years in School".

- The type of account you selected:
  - a taxable investing account ("Taxable Account"), or
  - a tax-advantaged retirement account (includes Traditional, Roth, SEP, or SIMPLE IRA)

  Note: Please refer to the "Assumptions and Limitations" section for additional information related to tax and account specific assumptions that will impact the estimated values presented.

- Your investment amount:
  - Before enrollment: your investment amount is assumed to be your intended initial investment amount that you inputted.
  - While enrolled: your investment account is assumed to be the current value of assets in your Program account as of the date of the calculation.
  - Your scheduled ongoing (i.e., monthly) contribution amounts in the future, if any.

- The Risk Tolerance for your goal.

- The Confidence Level can be one of the following percent likelihoods: Low (55% likelihood), Medium (75% likelihood), and High (95% likelihood). It is directly tied to the Risk Tolerance level for your Program account goal. You cannot directly modify the Confidence Level used in the Analysis. It will only change if your Program account's Risk Tolerance is changed.

- Your goal's Time Horizon, which may change depending upon the current year and your Target Year. For General Investing, Home, Family Support, Travel, Special Occasion and Other Large Purchase goals, the Time Horizon is calculated based on the current year and your stated goal Target year. For Retirement, Time Horizon is calculated based on your current age and your age at the end of your Years in Retirement. For Retirement, the Time Horizon calculations also utilize your stated Retirement Age to define when desired cash outflows for your Goal Target start. For purposes of the calculations, a person's age cannot exceed 115. For Education goals, Time Horizon is calculated based on the current year and the final year of your Years in School. For Education, the Time Horizon calculation also utilizes the stated Year Starting School to define when desired cash outflows for your Goal Target start. If the current year is the same as your Goal Target year, then you are close to finishing the time you have indicated for completing your goal and we will not perform the Analysis.

- The Goal Target is used as a basis for calculating the Estimated Goal Cost. For General Investing, Home, Family Support, Travel, Special Occasion and Other Large Purchase goals, the Goal Target is labeled as "Target amount." For Retirement goals, the Goal Target is labeled as "Monthly retirement income" and is a series of cash flows over a specified period of time during retirement. For Education goals, the Goal Target annual amount is calculated based on multiplying the amount in the "Estimated annual expenses" field (e.g. $45,000) by the percentage entered into the "Percentage to Pay" input field (e.g. 65%) and is a series of cash flows over the number of Years in School that you specify. For more information on the Education Goal labels, please refer to the Glossary section of this document. The

Goal Target amount you enter should reflect the cost of the goal plus any taxes related to achieving your goal that you expect to occur. For retirement goals, your monthly retirement income target should reflect the amount of income you need before paying any federal, state, or local taxes ("pre-tax income"). In the Analysis, Your Goal Target amount cannot be $0 and entering a $0 target amount is equivalent to removing your Goal Target in which case we will show you a Hypothetical Projection for your account. Refer to the [Hypothetical Projections Tool methodology]document for more information.

- External Assets:
  - Linked accounts: Assets in eligible Bank of America bank accounts and/or Merrill investment accounts that you have chosen to align to your Goal Target. The account type, account dollar value balance and asset allocation of the External Assets for your Linked account will be automatically included as one of the inputs into the Estimated Goal Cost, Estimated Available Assets, and the Target Asset Allocation recommendation for your Program account. Any monthly contribution amount entered (optional) for your Linked account will also be included as an input into both the Analysis and recommendation. Changes to the account dollar value balance, asset allocation, and/or monthly contribution information of these External Assets will affect the Estimated Goal Cost and Estimated Available Assets and potentially the recommendation for your Program account. You should only link accounts that you consider to be appropriate to align to your Goal Target. Please note that eligibility of an account for linking to your Program account may change at any time in our sole discretion.

  - External accounts: Certain information that you have provided through the Program Website and/or a Program Advisor, as applicable, for accounts maintained at unaffiliated investment firms. You should only provide information about External Assets in External accounts that you consider appropriate to be aligned to your Goal Target and which you would like to include as part of the overall Estimated Available Assets and Estimated Goal Cost for your specified Goal Target. Your External account information will also be used as an input to the Target Asset Allocation recommendation for your Program account. The account type (based on the goal type selected), account dollar value balance, asset allocation (optional), and any ongoing contributions (optional) for your External account, as provided by you, will be included as one of the inputs into the Estimated Goal Cost, Estimated Available Assets, and the Target Asset Allocation recommendation for your Program account.
    - General Investing, Home, Family Support, Travel, Special Occasion, Other Large Purchase and Education goals: You can only select taxable investing accounts in the External accounts section.
    - Retirement goals: You can add any of the following:
      - taxable investing accounts
      - Traditional IRA
      - Roth IRA
      - Roth 401(k)
      - 401(k) (pre-tax)

- Your selection regarding whether to include Social Security income as part of your Estimated Available Assets to fund a Retirement goal. You may choose whether to have a future Social Security income estimated for you ("Estimate based on your annual pre-tax income") or enter the Social Security benefit you expect to receive ("Enter a monthly amount"). If you indicate you are already retired, you will be asked to enter your estimated Social Security benefit as part of the profiling process.

- Your selection regarding whether to include future incomes as part of your Estimated Available Assets to fund a Retirement goal. For your Retirement goal, you will have the option to include additional pre-tax incomes in retirement including the income type ("Income Type") and the income amount you anticipate receiving ("Monthly Amount" or "Amount"). For inheritances and one time payouts, you can also include the year you anticipate receiving the income ("Anticipated Year"). You may enter additional pre-tax incomes only for retirement goals.
  You can add any of the following pre-tax income types:
  - Pension
  - Annuity
  - Rental income
  - Other income
  - Inheritance
  - One time payout

How does it work?

This section describes the approach used for calculating the estimated values presented in the Analysis to help you understand if you are on track to reach your Goal Target.

Estimated Goal Cost: This estimated dollar value is the initial wealth you would need to invest today in the recommended Target Asset Allocation to reach the desired Goal Target. The Estimated Goal Cost is calculated using an analytical formula that simulates future expected returns and applies them to the Goal Target[1]. A key

[1] Based on the standard financial modeling approach of Geometric Brownian Motion (GBM). See: Wang, Suri, Laster, Almadi, "Portfolio Selection in Goals-Based Wealth Management". Journal of Wealth Management, Summer 2011.

variable in these calculations and methodology is the risk-adjusted discount rate which can be thought of as the minimum expected return that a specific Target Asset Allocation will generate over a specific Time Horizon and Confidence Level. The risk-adjusted discount rate also incorporates arithmetic average annual return and expected annual volatility assumptions for the recommended Target Asset Allocation based on the Capital Market Assumptions ("CMAs") described in this document in the "Assumptions and Limitations" section.

The Estimated Goal Cost is also influenced by the assets that will be used as the funding source, the timing of all available assets (e.g., current assets or future contributions), and the asset allocation of any External Assets (if provided). Because each of these assets is considered as a separate cash inflow at a specific point in time, the rate used to discount these cash inflows to today's dollars will be impacted. For example, a heavier reliance on future investments to fund a Goal Target will increase the overall cost of a Goal Target and a heavier reliance on current assets will lower the overall cost of a Goal Target. Also note that when your Goal Target is entered as multiple cash outflows over a multi-year period (e.g. Retirement goal, Education goal), each cash outflow is treated separately and then aggregated together to provide you with a single combined value for your Estimated Goal Cost.

For Education goals, an inflation rate of 5.23% is applied in estimating the cost of the goal to account for the rising cost of higher education. For all other goals, a standard inflation rate of 2.44% is applied.

In addition to these factors, Estimated Goal Cost may be impacted by taxes, fees (where applicable) and the use of any allocation to different asset classes and allocations from those modeled in the Analysis. The Analysis does not include any transaction costs or fees that may be associated with purchasing or selling securities. For more information please see the "Assumptions and Limitations" section.

Estimated Available Assets: The Estimated Available Assets values are estimated by discounting all of the assets, contributions and future income sources (if any) that you have aligned to the Goal Target into a combined value in today's dollars (present value) using Merrill's long-term expected inflation assumptions. The Analysis assumes that future contributions or income you specify for the Goal Target are known and certain. Therefore, it is important that future income and investments you provide are realistic and achievable. The "Goal Funding Mix" chart provides a different, more detailed view of Estimated Available Assets when you provide External Assets to include in the Analysis for a Goal Target. The "Goal Funding Mix" chart uses the same values and assumptions.

Estimated Funding Percentage: This percentage is a comparison of the Estimated Goal Cost and Estimated Available Assets. This percentage value represents an estimate of what portion of the Estimated Goal Cost is covered by the Estimated Available Assets based on the information provided. It should not be interpreted as representing the percent probability of reaching your Goal Target. As noted earlier and as discussed more fully in the section discussing "Confidence Levels", an Estimated Funding Percentage of 100% does not mean that you have a 100% chance of achieving your Goal Target. Rather, that means that your Estimated Available Assets equals 100% of the Estimated Goal Cost, both of which are estimates and rely on various assumptions. Moreover, the Estimated Funding Percentage and your Goal's Overall Status (refer to "Overall Status" section on p.2) are not used in managing your Program account.

Target Asset Allocation: The Analysis will use one of five Allocation Profiles ranging from Conservative to Aggressive, based on the Strategic Asset Allocation ("SAA") models developed by our Chief Investment Office ("CIO"). Your recommended Target Asset Allocation for the Analysis is the same Target Asset Allocation recommended for your Program account and is selected from these Allocation Profiles.

When you first profile and each time you make a change to the Goal Target and related information, the Estimated Goal Cost is calculated multiple times and the most efficient (lowest cost) Allocation Profile is selected. The Estimated Goal Cost thus reflects the recommended Target Asset Allocation for the goal, Time Horizon and desired Confidence Level based on the Risk Tolerance selected. Any External Assets and their respective balance(s), asset allocation makeup, and contribution(s) will be used in determining the Estimated Goal Cost and thus the Target Asset Allocation. Aligning External Assets to your Goal Target may result in a different recommended Target Asset Allocation than if the External Assets had not been included. Therefore, when making changes to your goal, or when running this Analysis at a different time, please note that a different Target Asset Allocation could be recommended if the overall factors have changed sufficiently such that an alternative Allocation Profile may be deemed a better choice based on the calculation. Because this process incorporates your Goal Target and Confidence Level as described, the Target Asset Allocation generated by the goals-based analytical engine may be different than the asset allocation recommended by us if you don't select a Goal Target for your Program account.

External Assets: This information only applies if you choose to align Linked accounts or External accounts to your Goal Target. Asset information for any Linked and/or External account(s) is included in the Estimated Goal Cost, Estimated Available Assets, and the Target Asset Allocation recommendation. The Analysis uses the account type, account dollar value balance, asset allocation mix, and ongoing contributions for your Linked and/or External account(s) in determining your Estimated Goal Cost. The forward looking growth assumptions for each asset class (as outlined the "Capital Market Assumptions" section of this document) are applied to the equity, fixed income, and cash allocation percentages for your Linked and/or External accounts. For Linked accounts, your asset allocation is included automatically. For External accounts, you should specify the asset class allocation. In performing the Analysis as of a point in time, the asset allocation of your Linked and/or External accounts is assumed to be fixed and all future contributions indicated for those accounts will assume to be allocated according to current asset allocation. The Analysis can change if the asset allocation information changes. If you choose not to specify an allocation for assets in your External accounts, the Target Asset Allocation for your Program account will be applied to your External accounts to perform the Analysis.

The impact of your Linked and/or External accounts on the Estimated Goal Cost and Target Asset Allocation recommendation depends on the size of the account relative to your Program account and the how different the allocation composition is from the Target Asset Allocation. An External asset that comprises a small portion of the overall goal funding compared to your Program account with a similar asset allocation will only result in a minor change in the Estimated Goal Cost. Conversely, an External account that comprises a large portion of the overall goal funding with a very different asset allocation from the Target Asset Allocation will have a significant impact on the Estimated Goal Cost and could change our recommendation for your Program account.

Your statements from the firm where your account with External Assets are maintained are the official record of the External Asset holdings in your accounts. Please refer to “External Assets” in the “Assumptions and Limitations” section for additional details on important considerations when External Assets are incorporated in this Analysis.

The “Other Accounts” section of the “Goal Funding Mix” chart displays the portion of your Estimated Available assets from External Assets based on the market value and ongoing contributions last provided by you.

Confidence Levels (Percent Likelihood): The Confidence Level used in the Analysis is tied directly to the Risk Tolerance for the goal and thus reflects your ability and willingness to accept the risk that your Estimated Available Assets will be insufficient to fund the Goal Target. Therefore, it is very important that the Risk Tolerance for your Program account accurately reflects your ability and willingness to take on risk for this goal.

In the Analysis, the Confidence Level is a measure of how likely it is that a specific pool of funding assets will be able to fully fund a future goal. The Confidence Level is the most impactful parameter in the calculation of the Estimated Goal Cost. A higher Confidence Level will result in a higher Estimated Goal Cost since you are indicating a lower capacity for risk. Therefore, the Estimated Goal Cost will incorporate a much more narrow allowance for variability and therefore be a more conservative estimate of the amount needed. On the other hand, a lower Confidence Level will result in a lower Estimated Goal Cost since you are indicating a higher capacity for risk. In this case, the Estimated Goal Cost will incorporate a wider allowance for variability and therefore be a more aggressive estimate of the amount needed.

The Confidence Level aligns to the Risk Tolerance for your Program account as outlined below:

- **High Confidence / Likelihood**: In general, this level is usually aligned with goals that matters most to you. This confidence level aligns to a Low Risk Tolerance. As such, you may not be willing or able to take much risk to pursue these goals. The methodology uses a 95% likelihood of success measure to determine the achievability of the goal.

- **Medium Confidence / Likelihood**: In general, this level is usually aligned with goals where there is some flexibility in the extent to which the goal is achieved. This confidence level aligns to a Medium Risk Tolerance. As such, you may bewilling and able to take some risk to achieve these goals. The methodology uses a 75% likelihood of success measure to determine the achievability of these goals.

- **Low Confidence / Likelihood**: In general, this level is usually aligned with goals where there is considerable flexibility on the extent to which the goal is achieved. This confidence level aligns to a High Risk Tolerance. As such, you may be willing and able to take more risk to achieve these goals. The methodology uses a 55% likelihood of success measure to determine the achievability of these goals.

It is important you consider this relationship between the Estimated Goal Cost, Risk Tolerance and Confidence Level used, as it will impact whether your Estimated Available Assets are able to meet your Goal Target or not.

Understanding the Confidence Level is also essential to understanding the meaning of the Estimated Goal Cost and Estimated Funding Percentage. As always, there is a tradeoff between risk and probability of success: the higher the potential risk, the lower the probability of success to achieve a particular goal. For example, for Goal Targets with a High Risk Tolerance, the Confidence Level used in the Analysis applies a 55% likelihood or probability of success measure, as described above. Therefore, if a Goal Target has a High Risk Tolerance and an Estimated Funding Percentage of 100%, there is still a 45% probability of the Goal Target not being achieved. For a Goal Target with a Medium Risk Tolerance, the Confidence Level is 75%, thereby allowing for a 25% probability of not achieving the Goal Target when the Estimated Funding Percentage is 100%.

The Confidence Level also impacts the Target Asset Allocation recommended by the Analysis for a goal. In general, the Analysis will recommend a more conservative Target Asset Allocation for a Goal Target with High Confidence Level (Low Risk Tolerance) than for a Goal Target with a Low Confidence (High Risk Tolerance) over the same time-horizon. The assumption is that a Conservative

Target Asset Allocation has a tighter future projected wealth distribution than an Aggressive one over the same time horizon.

The Analysis assumes that your stated Risk Tolerance (and Confidence level) do not change over the projection time period. It is also important that you revisit your goal often and ensure your goal information is accurate and up to date.

Estimated Achievable Amount: Using your calculated Goal Target Funding Status and the resulting Target Asset Allocation recommendation, the Estimated Achievable Amount is derived by determining the target amount that – based on all of the other inputs – would be fully funded (i.e., an amount resulting in 100% Estimated Funding Percentage). The same information used for your Goal Target Funding Status is used in determining the Estimated Achievable Amount, such as the information regarding how you plan to fund your goal and your goal's Risk Tolerance, which determines the Confidence Level or likelihood of success used to estimate the Estimated Achievable Amount. The Estimated Achievable Amount is presented in comparison to your stated Goal Target amount in the "What's my estimated amount?" chart and is meant to help you understand how much you are estimated to have for your goal compared to the amount of your stated Goal Target.

The Estimated Achievable Amount will be less than the amount of your stated Goal Target if the Estimated Funding Percentage is less than 100%. This indicates that the amount at which you are estimated to fully fund the goal based on your entered information is less than the amount of your stated Goal Target. For example, if a stated Goal Target amount of $200,000 results in an Estimated Funding Percentage of 80% and the Estimated Achievable Amount is determined to be $140,000, this means you are estimated to fully fund the goal at the amount of $140,000 based on your entered information at the Confidence Level indicated by the selected Risk Tolerance but that you are not estimated to fully fund the amount of your stated Goal Target of $200,000. Your entered information includes your goal's time horizon, initial investment amount, ongoing contributions, Risk Tolerance, and any aligned External Assets or other retirement incomes. (For further details on your entered information, refer back to the "Your information for the calculation" section)

Conversely, the Estimated Achievable Amount will be greater than the amount of your stated Goal Target if the Estimated Funding Percentage is greater than 100%. This indicates the amount at which you are estimated to fully fund the goal based on all of your entered information is greater than the amount of your stated Goal Target. For example, if a stated Goal Target of $100,000 results in an Estimated Funding Percentage of 120% and the Estimated Achievable Amount is determined to be $115,000, this means you are estimated to fully fund a goal at $115,000 based on your entered information at the Confidence Level indicated by the selected Risk Tolerance.

The Estimated Achievable Amount view does not in any way change your stated Goal Target amount used in the Goal Target Funding Status nor does it change the Target Asset Allocation recommendation from the Analysis. Your Program account will not be managed based on your Estimated Achievable Amount, and the Estimated Achievable Amount is not guaranteed. If you change your stated Goal Target amount based on your goal's Estimated Achievable Amount (or for any other reason), your Goal Target Funding Status will be re-calculated based on the new stated Goal Target amount and you may receive a different Target Asset Allocation recommendation. Similar to the Goal Target Funding Status, the inputs used to calculate the Estimated Achievable Amount include any External Assets or other incomes (retirement goal only) that you've aligned to your goal that are not managed as part of the Program.

Assumptions and Limitations

Besides the inputs provided by you, the Analysis makes certain assumptions and has related limitations. Both of these are described below:

Capital Market Assumptions: The Analysis incorporates long-term CMAs for each asset class in the Target Asset Allocations used in the Guided Investing Programs which are based on SAA developed by the CIO. Each SAA is composed of a combination of Equity (stocks), Fixed Income (bonds) and cash asset classes depending on the level of investment risk associated with the specific allocation. The assumptions used for each included asset class reflect estimates of expected return (growth), expected standard deviation (a measure of risk and variability) and the expected correlation coefficient (a measure of the extent to which the different asset classes behave similarly over time). These CMAs directly impact the Estimated Goal Cost values.

The asset class assumptions were developed following a rigorous process and do not merely assume that historic returns will continue to be realized in the future; instead they consider a number of factors and analyses, including the following:

- A close examination of asset class performance over several economic cycles with the inclusion of recent market movements
- Consideration of special events or circumstances, with the appreciation that future performance may not necessarily follow past patterns
- Review of academic research and advanced analytical forecasting and statistical models.

The forward looking growth assumptions for the asset classes used in these calculations are based on the Index proxies as listed below.

Additional information about the Index proxies can be found in the "Glossary" section of this document.

Asset Class	Index Proxy
Equity	Standard & Poor's 500 Total Return
Fixed Income	Intercontinental Exchange BofA US Broad Market Bond Index
Cash	IA SBBI 30 Day Treasury Bill

Forward Looking Growth Assumptions:

Asset Class	Geometric Mean Return	Arithmetic Mean Return	Standard Deviation	Correlation vs. Equity
Equity	9.7%	11.0%	17.3%	1.00
Fixed Income	4.2%	4.3%	4.9%	0.10
Cash	3.3%	3.3%	0.4%	0.03

Note: Indices and values in the table are as of November 2023. Indices are unmanaged, assume the reinvestment of dividends and do not reflect the impact of management or performance fees. Indices do not represent actual individual accounts. One cannot invest directly in an index. The asset allocations used for the projections may differ from the actual asset allocations in your selected investment strategy.

Impact of Fees and Certain Expenses: For purposes of the calculations used, the Analysis incorporates the applicable Program annual asset-based fee to the risk-adjusted discount rate applied to the Goal Target. This has the effect of reducing the net annual expected returns used to calculate the Estimated Goal Cost. This is in contrast, to the way the fee is applied for accounts enrolled in the Guided Investing Programs, each of which assesses the annual asset-based fee on a monthly basis in advance.

However, the estimated values presented do not reflect the impact of other fees and expenses associated with being an investor in ETFs or Funds that may be held in your account or fees not covered by the applicable Program fee, such as exchange fees charged by third parties. Had they been factored in, the estimated values presented would reflect lower Estimated Available Assets and a higher Estimated Goal Cost.

Inflation: The Analysis reflects the assumption that the current long-term expected inflation rate is 2.44%. For Education goals, we assume an inflation rate of 5.23% in estimating the goal cost to account for the rising cost of higher education. These values could change over time.

Intervals Approach: The Analysis calculates time in whole-year intervals regardless of the point in time during the calendar year when the chart is presented. This means than any estimated values presented assume the entire current year in the calculation, regardless of how many months are left in the calendar year.

Additionally, the Analysis combines all monthly cash outflow values entered as a Goal Target into an annual value. If the current year is the same as your Goal Target year, then you are close to finishing the time you have indicated for your goal. Because of this, we will not perform the Analysis and your Goal Target Funding Status will be replaced by a view that compares an estimate of your current account values and future contributions to your stated Goal Target.

Ongoing Investments (contributions): As an assumption, your stated monthly contributions (if any) are multiplied by 12 and the resulting value is invested once at the end of each year. Any changes in investment value are applied only in one-year time periods. We assume the amount of the monthly contributions does not change over the projected period except as specified in the "Retirement Account-related calculations" section.

Taxes: We assume that you include the cost of any taxes you incur for your goal when entering your Goal Target amount and we do not make any additional assumptions to account for or adjust for the deduction of any taxes in the Analysis. We do not consider the impact of income taxes on your ability to fund your desired Goal Target. Assuming you plan to use the investments and income included in this Analysis as the source of funds for tax payments, it is recommended that you enter your Goal Target as an amount that reflects the cost of the goal, plus any taxes related to achieving your goal that you expect to incur. Some common taxes to consider including in the total cost of your goal are income, sales, and capital gains taxes. When establishing your retirement Goal Target dollar amount ("Monthly Retirement Income"), we recommend you enter your annual pre-tax income that reflects the amount you earn before any federal, state, or local taxes (not your take home pay). This will ensure the analysis for your retirement goal includes the cost of taxes into the Estimated Goal Cost amount. Entering your Goal target as an "after-taxes" or take home value, will under estimate the Estimated goal cost and this would lead to the Goal Funding Status overestimated the funding percentage of your goal. In addition, the following assumptions and limitations apply to the Analysis based on the individual account types included in the Analysis:

- For tax deferred (e.g. Retirement) accounts, the Analysis assumes that assets grow tax deferred in the account. However, with the exception of early withdrawal penalties as described in the "Retirement Account-related calculations" section (below), the engine does not factor in any taxes that may be applicable to you at the time of withdrawal as these will depend on your individual tax situation at the time the assets are withdrawn from the account. Instead, the analysis assumes the Goal Target (retirement income amount in this case) is a "gross" amount and that you will be paying taxes from that amount based on your individual tax situation and tax rates at the time of withdrawal. This will have an impact on the actual dollar amount you receive when the assets are withdrawn from your account. It will also impact the

Estimated Goal Cost which would be higher if the taxes were incorporated in the calculation.

- For Taxable accounts, the Analysis does not factor in the calculations any impact regarding taxes you may owe related to capital gains or income distributions form the investments during the planning period. This will impact the Estimated Goal Cost which would be higher if the taxes were incorporated in the calculation. It also does not assume a specific tax rate or a specific amount you may owe at the time you liquidate those assets. Therefore, as stated above, it is important that you include any taxes you expect to incur at the time you liquidate your investments to fund your goal and any taxes you may need to pay when making the purchase related to your goal in the total Goal Target Amount.

Please be advised that Merrill does not provide tax advice. You should consult with your tax advisor regarding your individual tax situation.

Rebalancing: The Analysis assumes the theoretical allocations are continuously aligned to the applicable Target Asset Allocation, without the need to be rebalanced, for all cash-flows in the calculation period. The actual investment strategies used in the client accounts enrolled in the Guided Investing Programs may be rebalanced at any time, as explained in the relevant Program Brochure, and the actual allocations may differ from those used in the Analysis' calculation.

Retirement Account-related Calculations: Assets in a Retirement account are estimated based on continued tax deferred growth until the year you designated as your Retirement Year. Withdrawals taken before your Retirement Year may incur taxes. For the purposes of the Analysis if a withdrawal is planned to be taken before age 59 ½, a 10% penalty tax will be applied to desired cash outflow thus reducing the amount available to withdraw during your Years in Retirement. No other tax rate is applied.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs): IRS rules require that annual minimum distributions start to be taken from a Traditional IRA when you turn age 73. The RMD amount is based on life expectancy assumptions the IRS uses. In certain scenarios, the RMD may be greater than the desired cash flow for the Goal Target. If the RMD is not taken, there may be certain penalties which are not considered in the Analysis. As you approach the RMD age, you should carefully reassess your withdrawals on an annual basis to ensure you are meeting the RMD minimums. You can find additional information regarding RMDs at: IRS.gov.

IRA Contribution Limits: If you are investing in a Traditional, Roth, or SEP, IRA and your stated monthly contributions exceed the annual contribution limits currently set by the IRS, the calculations assume that you contributed the annual maximum. The calculations then assume that your stated monthly contributions restart in January of the following year. You will be limited to the current year's limit on IRA contributions.

For a Traditional or Roth IRA, the limit is $7,000 for a client under age 50 as of the end of 2024 or $8,000 for clients older than 50 years old in 2024. In accordance with the SECURE Act, anyone may make a Traditional IRA contribution if they have earned income regardless of their age.

For a SEP IRA, the limit for employer contributions in 2024 is $69,000 ($66,000 in 2023). For a SIMPLE IRA, the contributions you enter should include both employer and employee estimated contributions.

The maximum employee contributions to a SIMPLE IRA for a client under age 50 for 2024 is $16,000. The maximum employee contributions to a SIMPLE IRA for a client age 50 or older for 2024 is $19,500. To allow for both estimated employer and employee contributions, the calculations do not impose a limit on contributions to a SIMPLE IRA. In future years, the calculations will assume the contribution limits grow at the rate of inflation. This would cause the limited contributions to grow with inflation until they reach the stated amount, as well as being adjusted at age 50 to take advantage of the additional catch-up contribution. For purposes of computing the annual limit, no portion of the existing account balance, rollover or transfer will be considered as made in the initial year.

External Assets:
If you provide External Assets information (Linked accounts or External accounts), they will be factored in the Analysis to calculate your Estimated Goal Cost, Estimated Available Assets, and your investment strategy recommendation for your Guided Investing Program account. Please note the following assumptions and limitations when aligning External Assets:

- Your Linked accounts' individual portfolio holdings will not be used directly as part of the Analysis but instead inform us of the Linked account's asset allocation among the equity, fixed income, and cash asset classes, which are used as part of the Analysis. The "Forward Looking Growth Assumptions" for each asset class, as outlined in the "Capital Market Assumptions" section, will be applied to your account for the purposes of the Analysis

- Any of your Linked accounts' portfolio holdings that are considered part of the alternative investment asset class will be excluded from the Analysis, as only equity, fixed income, and cash asset classes are considered.

- In performing the Analysis as of a point in time, we assume that the asset allocation of your Linked or External account will remain fixed and be applied to both the account balance and any future contributions. If your Linked account's asset allocation changes, we will use the latest asset allocation in the Analysis. We encourage you to keep External account information up-to-date both initially and on an ongoing basis since this information will be used in the Analysis, and recommendation for your Guided Investing Program account.

- The monthly contribution amount that you enter for a Linked account will only be used in our Guided Investing Program Account Analysis. Please be sure to accurately enter any scheduled contributions from your Linked account, as they will otherwise not be included. If you have yet to arrange the actual, monthly transfers for the Linked accounts, you must do so separately. If you make a change to the monthly contribution entered, you would still need to change the amount of actual transfers separately from the Guided Investing Programs.

- If you do not provide asset allocation information for your External account, we assume that the asset allocation of the External account is the same as the Target Asset Allocation of your Guided Investing account.

- Future contributions to your External assets are discounted using the inflation assumptions described in the document.

The following account types have additional assumptions that impact the calculation, if selected:

- For 401(k) accounts, the calculation limits the amount you can contribute annually to $23,000 per year in 2024.

- For Traditional and Roth IRAs, the Analysis does not take into account the amount of any stated contributions that would exceed the annual IRS contribution limits.

- We are not an investment advisor with respect to External Assets, and therefore we will not advise you on External Assets Additionally, the "Goal Funding Mix" chart shows the information about your External Assets in Linked accounts and/or External accounts in the "Other Accounts" section.

- Any External account data presented is based on the information provided for those accounts as of the date the data was last inputted by you. Merrill does not update information relating to your External accounts and does not independently verify the accuracy of the information supplied by you. . Inaccurate, incomplete or outdated data will impact the accuracy and utility of Analysis and related projections. We are not responsible for the performance or accuracy of the information provided regarding your External Assets.

- Your Merrill account statements are your official records of holdings, balances, and securities held in for your accounts at Merrill. Any information presented in this Analysis does not replace or supersede information on your Merrill account statement or any third-party account statement for your External Assets.

Social Security: Social Security values used in the projections are estimated based on several factors including your age, longevity assumptions based on Social Security Administration data and your stated income. The pre-tax salary you provide in today's dollars and the estimated benefits are adjusted as needed for inflation assumptions as indicated in this document. Additionally, the pre-tax salary you provide is assumed to qualify as earned income from a single individual (no spouse). In estimating your Social Security benefit, earnings are assumed to start at age 22. We use the ratio of past national average wages to recent national average wages to assume your ratio of past earnings to current earnings. Future earnings, up to your year of retirement, are assumed to grow with inflation.

Social Security income is assumed to start on the year you indicate as your Retirement Year. If you indicate a Retirement Age of 62 or younger, the analysis assumes that Social Security income starts at age 62. If you indicate a Retirement Age of 70 or greater, it assumes the Social Security income begins at age 70. If you indicate you are already retired, you will be asked to enter your estimated monthly Social Security income. Social Security income is assumed to end at the end of the Years in Retirement value you select. Your Program Advisor (if applicable) has the ability to change the Social Security income start age to an age later than your Retirement age. Social security income information is reflected in the "Estimated future income and contributions" portion of the "Estimated Available Assets" bar chart and the "Other Income" section of the "Goal Funding Mix" chart.

Additional Pre-tax Incomes in Retirement: If you provide Additional Income information, we assume that the asset allocation for the Additional Pre-Tax Incomes you include for purposes of estimating your Estimated Available Assets have the same Target Asset Allocation as that of your goal. Incomes are discounted using the inflation assumptions described in this document. Reoccurring income types (Pension, Annuity, Rental Income, and Other Income) are assumed to start on the year you indicate as your Retirement Year and end at the end of the Years in Retirement value you select. One time income types (Inheritance, One Time Payout) are treated in the analysis as a single cash flow occurring in the year entered (Anticipated Year). The anticipated year may occur anytime between next year (current year + 1) and the last year of your retirement duration (Years in Retirement). Any additional incomes you have elected to provide for the Analysis for your Goal Target is reflected in the "Estimated future income and contributions" portion of the "Estimated Available Assets" bar chart and the "Other Income" section of the "Goal Funding Mix" chart.

Additional Limitations: Please also consider the following limitations:

- The estimated values presented in the Analysis are highly dependent on the accuracy of the growth assumptions discussed in this and "Our "Methodology" sections.

- The asset classes used in the Allocation Profiles used for the purpose of the hypothetical projections may at times differ from the allocation in your investment strategy, both in terms of the actual asset classes included in your investment strategy and in terms of the percent allocation of the overall portfolio. This difference is based on the fact that the investment strategies are actively managed, and the actual allocations in your investment strategy may reflect tactical asset allocation changes based on the CIO's investment decisions as well as rebalancing decisions that are not modeled by the tool and are not reflected in the Allocation Profiles. You should be aware that this could result in the projected value not reflecting the actual performance of the strategy in the Program account and does not depict results that would occur from an extreme market event, either positive or negative, due to the low probability of such an occurrence.

- This Analysis is limited to the information you provide for your Guided Investing account and any External Assets you provide for the Goal Target as described in this document; the Analysis does not take into account any assets, investments or income you have unless you provide that information.

- The Analysis does not analyze specific security holdings like the Funds or ETFs in the investment strategies used in Guided Investing. Instead, it analyzes the identified asset allocation, cash inflows and cash outflows.

- The Analysis represents a static analysis at a specific point in time. Therefore, the results of the Analysis can change over time and with each use if any of the underlying assumptions and/or profile data are adjusted.

- If you change the information you've provided, such as the Risk Tolerance, Time Horizon, the amount of your initial contribution or ongoing contributions, the overall Analysis will be adjusted to reflect this changed information provided. In addition, the hypothetical projections and estimates are presented as of the date indicated on the chart. If you perform the calculation on a different date, the results may be different due to the difference in time or if any of the underlying assumptions change, even if your information hasn't changed.

- While the Allocation Profiles make use of asset allocation, this approach does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss in declining markets and does not eliminate the risk of fluctuating prices and uncertain returns.

Glossary

Allocation Profile: A description of various factors, including Risk Tolerance and Time Horizon, based on what you tell us. The overall risk characterization of the investor profile — conservative, moderately conservative, moderate, moderately aggressive or aggressive — serves as the foundation for a Target Asset Allocation. The five Allocation Profiles are as follows:

- **Conservative**: For investors who are predominantly risk averse. Primary focus is on portfolio stability and preservation of capital. Investors using this Allocation Profile should be willing to achieve investment returns (adjusted for inflation) that are low or, in some years, negative, in exchange for reduced risk of principal loss and a high level of liquidity. A typical portfolio will be heavily weighted toward cash and fixed income asset classes.

- **Moderately Conservative**: For investors who are somewhat risk-averse. Primary focus is to achieve a modest level of portfolio appreciation with minimal principal loss and volatility. Investors using this Allocation Profile should be willing to absorb some level of volatility and principal loss. A typical portfolio will include primarily cash and fixed income asset classes with a modest allocation to the equity asset class.

- **Moderate**: For investors who are willing to take a moderate level of risk. Primary emphasis is to strike a balance between portfolio stability and portfolio appreciation. Investors using this Allocation Profile should be willing to assume a moderate level of volatility and risk of principal loss. A typical portfolio will primarily include a balance of the fixed income and equity asset classes.

- **Moderately Aggressive**: For investors who are willing to take a fair amount of risk. Primary emphasis is on achieving portfolio appreciation over time. Investors using this Allocation Profile should be willing to assume a high level of portfolio volatility and risk of principal loss. A typical portfolio will have exposures to various asset classes but will be primarily weighted toward the equity asset class.

- **Aggressive**: For investors who are willing to take substantial risk. Primary emphasis is on achieving above-average portfolio appreciation over time. Investors using this Allocation Profile should be willing to assume a significant level of portfolio volatility and risk of principal loss. A typical portfolio will have exposures to various asset classes but will be heavily weighted toward the equity asset class

Arithmetic Mean Return: Arithmetic average or mean return is computed by dividing the sum of a set of numbers by the number of items. This is what people typically think of as the "average." Similarly, the arithmetic average return of an investment refers to the simple average of returns observed over a period of time and it ignores the impact of compounding. Therefore the arithmetic average return is an estimate of the return on a year-to-year basis. This is in contrast to the geometric average which represents the compound rate of return over a given observation period and as such is a more accurate measure of long-term performance.

Asset Allocation: The mix of investment classes — equities, fixed income, cash — for an investor's portfolio.

Asset Class: A term used to classify and distinguish between types of assets. Examples include equities (stocks) and fixed income (bonds) and cash.

Capital market assumptions: These forward-looking assumptions reflect views on future asset class performance and anticipated levels of risk and volatility and were developed by CIO.

Equities (stocks): Investments representing ownership in a corporation. As a part owner or shareholder, an investor could profit from the company's successes in the form of increased share prices, dividends or both. On the other hand, equities have no fixed value and are only worth what another investor is willing to pay at any given moment.

Educational Expenses (client input, for Education goal only): For Education goals, when entering financial plans for the student, you may choose from three different options for "educational expensed based on" to populate an "estimated annual expenses" amount for determining your Goal Target amount. The "public university's average cost" and "private university's average cost" options are national average undergraduate cost information sourced from The College Board[2]. The estimated annual expense amount populated from selecting "a public university's average cost" is based on the 2022-23 national average for a public in-state four-year full-time undergraduate degree program. The amount reflects the cost of tuition, fees, and room and board. The estimated annual expense amount populated from selecting "a private university's average cost" is based on the 2022-23 national average for a private non-profit four-year full-time undergraduate degree program. The amount reflects the cost of tuition, fees, and room and board. For more detailed information on the source of this data, please refer to The College Board's website[3]. The "an amount I'll determine" selection allows you to enter an "estimated annual expenses" amount of your choosing instead of using The College Board's national average data.

Estimated Annual Expenses (client input, for Education goal only): The "Estimated annual expenses" input is part of the "What are your financial plans for the student's education" section for the Education goal. This amount is used with the "Percentage to Pay" field to determine the Goal Target amount for your Education goal. If you select either "a public university's average cost" or "a private university's average cost" in the "Educational expenses based on" field, the estimated annual expense amount will reflect The College Board's national average amount for tuition, fees, room, and board for your selection (see "Educational expenses" section of glossary for further definition on national average amounts). You may also choose to enter in your own value.

Fixed Income (bonds): Debt investments representing money that investors lend to a government or corporation (the issuer). The issuer, in return, promises to pay the investor a fixed or floating rate (coupon rate) at stated intervals over a predetermined period of time. At the end of this time (maturity date), the principal is returned to the investor. Prior to maturity, the value of the security fluctuates as current interest rates rise or fall.

Geometric Mean Return: A measure of the average return of an investment over a period of time. In particular, it is the rate of return that, if realized consistently, would produce the same cumulative return that the investment actually achieved. Also known as Annualized Return or Compound Annual Growth Rate

Inflation Rate: The rise in the prices of goods and services, as happens when spending increases relative to the supply of goods on the market.

Proxy index (benchmark) information:

Equity - Standard & Poor's 500 Total Return Index (S&P 500) ®:
A market−value−weighted index of industrial, public utility, financial and transportation stocks with income reinvested. It is a generally used performance benchmark for domestic equity portfolios, although it reflects the performance of very large−capitalization stocks.

Fixed Income - Intercontinental Exchange BofA US Broad Market Bond Index:
A market−value−weighted index composed of U.S. Treasury, Agency, Mortgage and Asset−backed securities and domestic Corporate (BBB/Baa rated or better) debt issues. This index can be used as a proxy for the domestic US fixed income market, and as a performance benchmark for fixed income portfolios.

Cash – IA SBBI U.S. 30 Day Tbill TR USD:
For the IA SBBI U.S. Treasury Bill Index, data from The Wall Street Journal is used for 1977- Present; The CRSP U.S. Government Bond File is the source from 1926 to 1976. Each month a one-bill portfolio containing the shortest-term bill having not less than one month to maturity is constructed. (The bill's original term to maturity is not relevant).

Percentage to Pay (client input, for Education goal only): The "Percentage to Pay" input is part of the "What are your financial

[2] Sourced information is provided by College Board, as of January 2024, and can be found at research.collegeboard.org

[3] 2023 Trends in college pricing is provided by College Board, current as of January 2024, and can be found at research.collegeboard.org/trends/college-pricing

plans for the student's education" section for the Education goal. This field allows you to enter in the percent of educational costs that you expect to pay for. As many families rely on numerous sources to pay for education expenses (e.g. scholarships, financial aid, student loans, working during school), this field, in conjunction with the "estimated annual expenses" field, allows you to create an Education goal target amount that reflects your plans for funding an Education goal. The percent you input must be greater than 0 and cannot exceed 100.

Standard Deviation: A measure of the extent to which observations in a series vary from the arithmetic mean of the series. Generally the higher the Standard Deviation, the higher the variability or risk. Standard Deviation of a series of asset returns is a measure of volatility, or risk, of the asset and it is a measure of the amount of risk present in a portfolio. It gives an indication of the range of returns to be expected in an average year. For example, if a portfolio has an average annual return of 10% and a Standard Deviation of 6%, 2/3 of the time, returns were between 4% and 16%

Strategic Asset Allocation (SAA): An asset allocation developed with a 20-30-year time horizon in mind that systematically diversifies portfolio allocations across multiple asset classes, which can then be used as part of a disciplined investment approach. Set by the Global Wealth & Investment Management Investment Strategy Committee (GWIM ISC), SAA targets are intended to control exposure to market volatility and assist clients in achieving their investment goals within their defined Risk Tolerance. The primary objective of the use of SAA is therefore to help achieve efficient returns while the minimizing portfolio risk.

Target Asset Allocation: means a recommended allocation of assets for a goal across one or more asset classes.

Years in Retirement (client input, for a Retirement goal only): The Years in Retirement input is a reflection of how long you intend to use the assets in your account after retirement. Your Retirement Age and your Years in Retirement will be combined to determine your Retirement goal's Time Horizon.

Years in School (client input, for Education goal only): The Years in School input is a reflection of how long you intend to use the assets in your account after the Year Starting School. Your Years in School and your Year Starting School will be combined to determine your Education goal's time horizon. For the purposes of the calculations, your age combined with the goal's time horizon may not exceed 115.

Year Starting School (client input, for Education goal only): The Year Starting School is the year in which you estimate the student will start. Your Year Starting School and your Years in School will be combined to determine your Education goal's time horizon.

Pre-tax: An amount before the deduction of any federal, state, or local taxes (not your take home amount).

Retirement Age (client input, for a retirement goal only): Your Retirement Age is the age at which you estimate you will retire and will be reflected as both an age as well as the associated year. Your Retirement Age and your Years in Retirement will be combined to determine your Retirement goal's Time Horizon.

Important Disclosures

You are not required to transact business with Merrill or to implement any of the suggestions made by us in connection with the Merrill Guided Investing Programs.

There are important considerations when investing in an investment advisory program, including the type of advice, services, and assistance provided, the type of fees charged and how you pay for those fees (for example, an asset-based fee), and the rights and obligations of the parties, as indicated in the Program Agreement and Program Brochure.

It is important for you to understand that the hypothetical projections, estimates, analysis and hypothetical values provided are not a financial plan. If you are interested in a formal analysis of your entire financial situation, ask us about Merrill's range of services, including the fees that may be applicable.

Merrill, its affiliates, and financial advisors do not provide legal, tax, or accounting advice. You should consult your legal and/or tax advisors before making any financial decisions.

Investing in securities involves risks, and there is always the potential of losing money when you invest in securities.

Please review the applicable Merrill Guided Investing Program Brochure (PDF) at www.merrilledge.com/guided-investing-program-brochure or Merrill Guided Investing with Advisor Program Brochure (PDF) at www.ml.com/guided-investing-program-brochure for information including the program fee, rebalancing, and the details of the investment advisory program. Your recommended investment strategy will be based solely on the information you provide to us for this specific investment goal and is separate from any other advisory program offered with us. If there are multiple owners on this account, the information you provide should reflect the views and circumstances of all owners on the account. If you are the fiduciary of this account for the benefit of the account owner or account holder (e.g., trustee for a trust or custodian for an UTMA), please keep in mind that these assets will be invested for the benefit of the account owner or account holder. Merrill Guided Investing is offered with and without an advisor. Merrill, Merrill Lynch, and/or Merrill Edge investment advisory programs are offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") and Managed Account Advisors LLC ("MAA") an affiliate of MLPF&S. MLPF&S and MAA are registered investment advisers. Investment adviser registration does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

The Chief Investment Office (CIO) develops the investment strategies for Merrill Guided Investing and Merrill Guided Investing with Advisor, including providing its recommendations of ETFs, mutual funds and related asset allocations. Managed Account Advisors LLC (MAA), Merrill's affiliate, is the overlay portfolio manager responsible for implementing the Merrill Guided Investing strategies for client accounts, including facilitating the purchase & sale of ETFs and mutual funds in client accounts and updating account asset allocations when the CIO's recommendations change while also implementing any applicable individual client or firm restriction(s).

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Are Not Deposits	Are Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency	Are Not a Condition to Any Banking Service or Activity