## Fixed Income Impact Investing Framework

For over two-plus decades, CCM has been measuring, monitoring, tracking, and reporting on the expected positive impact(s) of its fixed income investments. Our fixed income impact framework centers around transparency, reporting, and ongoing monitoring. We must have a high degree of confidence that the use of, or intent of, proceeds will result in positive environmental and/or societal outcomes as defined by one or more of our impact themes or that the issuing entity supports one or more of our impact themes.



## **Thematic Framework**

When CCM launched its flagship core fixed income impact investing strategy in 1999, we developed a macro framework to measure impact using six broad categories where each bond fell into one category. In 2015, we took a closer look at the positive impacts of each investment and restructured our impact metrics to include impact themes where each investment could align with more than one theme.

Our impact themes have grown over time, and while the current themes are distinct and diverse, they share certain common characteristics:

- Each theme strives to have positive environmental and/or social outcomes that we believe are societal benefits as a result of capital provided by our investors.
- We look for liquid investment opportunities that contribute to the portfolio's overall risk/return that align with each impact theme.
- We must be able to measure, monitor, and track the expected positive outcome(s) in an effort to maintain transparency in our client reporting.
- We must believe that market-rate opportunities will exist to allow client commitments to individual themes to be fulfilled over time.

We continually seek to advocate for greater investment product creation in support of our existing and future impact themes. And by communicating this need to the broader capital markets, we expect to play an ongoing, catalytic role in the creation of impact investment opportunities.



For additional information on CCM's Impact Themes, please click here.

## **Place-Based Framework**

CCM has been managing place-based impact investments since it began managing assets over two decades ago. In fact, the firm got its start by making place-based impact investments for banks to meet investment test requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) — a law intended to encourage depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they operate, including low- and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods, consistent with safe and sound banking operation. Today, we work with a variety of place-based impact investors, including foundations, nonprofits, religious organizations, healthcare organizations, and high net worth investors.

In public fixed income securities, impact investments can be tied directly to local projects or initiatives supporting a variety of environmental and societal benefits in a specific region or community. Our place-based framework includes research, analysis, tracking, and reporting on where capital is being geographically directed and how it is benefiting a state, county, or neighborhood. Often times, these areas are underserved, distressed, and/or low-income communities.

## **Impact Reporting**

We research, document, and report to clients, and their advisors if applicable, the expected positive impacts of securities purchased and/ or earmarked on their behalf. Our goal is to provide them added confidence that their capital is having meaningful positive environmental and/or social impacts to communities nationwide.

For questions on CCM's fixed income impact investing framework, please email info@ccminvests.com.

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