

# CCM Community Impact Bond Fund\*

## About the Fund

The Fund is an investment grade, intermediate duration bond fund that seeks to preserve capital, deliver attractive risk-adjusted returns, and serve as the ballast in a portfolio. The Fund invests in well-researched, fossil fuel free bonds that have direct and measurable positive environmental and societal impacts, with most bonds qualifying under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) of 1977. The Fund offers impact targeting where shareholders meeting minimum requirements can direct their capital to support specific geographies or impact themes, a benefit accompanied by impact reporting.

## Share Classes

	Ticker	Inception Date	Expense Ratio
CRA	CRAIX	8/30/99	0.91
Institutional	CRANX	3/2/07	0.46
Retail	CRATX	3/2/07	0.81

## Portfolio Managers

### Andy Kaufman

Chief Investment Officer

Industry Start Date: 2004

CCM Portfolio Manager Since 2015

### Elliot Gilfarb, CFA

Head of Fixed Income

Industry Start Date: 2005

CCM Portfolio Manager Since 2012

### Julie Egan

Director of Research

Industry Start Date: 1987

CCM Portfolio Manager Since 2010

## Key Takeaways

- The proliferation of COVID-19 vaccinations and continued fiscal stimulus provided investors the needed confidence to drive equity markets even higher.
- Interest rates rose as expectations for economic growth and inflation took hold.
- Equities were broadly higher, with the stocks of smaller-capitalization companies posting the best returns amidst an expected rebound in the hardest-hit areas of the economy.

## Market Commentary

Similar to the first quarter of 2020, the first quarter of 2021 was defined by COVID-19. But instead of lockdowns and an exponential spread of the virus, the quarter ended with a record vaccine rollout where over 590 million doses have been administered worldwide. The quarter also delivered a new U.S. president, another infusion of COVID-19 relief stimulus, and a \$2.3 trillion government spending proposal focused on job creation and infrastructure. Consumer confidence, spending, and income all increased as the prospect of normalcy and "life after COVID-19" becomes closer in sight. The enthusiasm extended to the stock market with the S&P 500 Index posting a new high, more than recovering from the precipitous 34% drop that occurred during the first quarter of last year. Between continued government spending and the pent-up demand for a recovery from COVID-19-related losses last year, inflation expectations grew, contributing to a sell-off in the bond market. Yields on U.S. Treasuries experienced a swift move higher, with the 10-year Treasury note ending the quarter at 1.74% (0.81% higher than where it started the quarter).

In fixed income, the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index (the Index) posted a negative quarterly return of 3.37%, the largest negative quarterly return since 1981. With the speed of the vaccination rollout and corresponding expectations for improving economic conditions, yields rose beyond previous consensus expectations. While most segments of the Index declined, U.S. Treasuries posted the worst results with the long-dated segment of the sector declining by 13.51%. Amidst an improving economic outlook, spreads narrowed across most sectors, particularly in segments of the mortgage-backed securities (MBS) sector where rising interest rates put a halt to the record-setting home refinancing wave of the prior nine months. Despite spreads narrowing in the corporate bond sector, the corporate segment of the Index still declined 4.65%. The amount of long-term investment grade corporate debt outstanding reached a record high, contributing to the overall sector's average maturity of 12 years, and thus its increased interest rate sensitivity. The debate around the level of future inflation has become fierce and is expected to continue as investors weigh the inflationary effects of increased government spending against the potential deflationary effects of higher taxes. This should lead to continued volatility in the level of rates and provide opportunities for bond managers who are active in managing portfolio duration and yield curve exposures.

In equities, the gains were widespread and impressive. Stocks of the smallest publicly traded companies were the best performers with the Russell Microcap Index and Russell 2000 Value Index posting gains of 23.9% and 21.2%, respectively. The rebound in the previously most beaten-down areas of the market has been remarkable with the demand for services, such as travel and entertainment, bidding up stock prices of commodities and cyclical industries. The energy sector was the best performer in the S&P 500 Index posting a quarterly return of 30.9% and trailing return of 116% since the lows in March 2020. The financial sector was the second-best performer in the S&P 500 Index, with a return of 16% as the earnings prospects for larger banks grew amidst a steepening yield curve. The returns for individual stocks in each sector most negatively impacted by COVID-19 has been a swift and extreme recovery; however, the impact on their future earnings and operations is still uncertain. Many stocks benefited from the lifestyle changes that accompanied the virus and carry valuations that assume a "new normal." Amidst this backdrop, there should be ample opportunities for active investment managers who are responsive to the post-COVID-19 economy shift and its impact on companies and sectors.

Learn more about our impact and ESG strategies at [www.ccminvests.com](http://www.ccminvests.com)

\*Effective March 1, 2021 the Fund's name changed from CRA Qualified Investment Fund to CCM Community Impact Bond Fund.

## About CCM

Community Capital Management, Inc. (CCM) was founded in 1998 and is a pioneer in impact and ESG investing. The firm believes a fully integrated portfolio, one that includes impact and environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors, can deliver strong financial performance while simultaneously having positive long-term economic and sustainable outcomes. CCM provides impact and ESG investing solutions coupled with customized reporting to clients on the positive impact outcomes of their investments. For more information, please call 877-272-1977 or visit: [www.ccminvests.com](http://www.ccminvests.com).

<b>Firm Assets</b>	\$3.4 Billion
<b>Impact and ESG Experience</b>	21 Years
<b>Impact and ESG Initiatives<sup>1</sup></b>	\$11.1 Billion Invested Nationwide

## Portfolio Contributors

- Lower portfolio duration
- Underweight to lower coupon MBS
- Overweight to taxable municipal bonds

## Portfolio Detractors

- Overweight to higher credit quality
- Slightly higher exposure to 10+ year maturity segment of the yield curve

## Portfolio Commentary

In the first quarter of 2021, the CCM Community Impact Bond Fund (the Fund) CRA Shares (CRAIX), Institutional Shares (CRANX), and Retail Shares (CRATX) posted negative returns of 1.41%, 1.30%, and 1.38%, respectively, on a net-of-fees basis. The intermediate component of the Bloomberg Barclays Aggregate Bond Index (the Benchmark) was down 1.61%.

The Fund benefited from an overweight in taxable municipal bonds, which held up better than the rest of the investment-grade sectors in the Benchmark, declining 0.24%. It also benefited from underweights to U.S. Treasuries and corporate bonds, which were the two worst-performing major sectors in the Benchmark, declining 1.76% and 2.19%, respectively. The Fund's higher-quality strategy (single-A rated or higher at purchase) was a slight headwind as the BBB segment of the Benchmark delivered excess returns of 0.21% over a comparable duration U.S. Treasury.

During the quarter, the yield curve steepened as yields on the front-end of the curve (below 3 years) ended the quarter close to where they began yet rose in the range of 0.18% to 0.86% in the 3- to 30-year segments of the curve. The Fund also benefited from its shorter duration (averaging 3.73 years vs. 3.79 years for the Benchmark during the quarter), and even though the Fund held a slightly longer exposure to the 10+ year segment of the yield curve, yield curve positioning had an insignificant impact on relative performance.

The Fund's MBS portfolio outperformed the MBS segment of the Index by 0.23%, posting a negative return of 0.87% vs. a negative return of 1.10% for the Index. To further implement its view on the direction of interest rates, in November, the portfolio management team quickly transitioned the MBS segment of the portfolio by slowing purchases of 2.0% and 2.5% coupon mortgages so that it would have less extension risk. That move was beneficial as these two MBS segments fell 2.99% and 1.96%, respectively. Similar to prior quarters, the excess return on the lowest-quality segment of the Benchmark's corporate sector (BBB) was positive and ranged 0.08% to 0.19% higher than that of the higher-quality segments of the corporate sector. Given the Fund's lack of BBB exposure, this was a slight headwind to relative returns.

The Fund's second largest sector, agency-guaranteed commercial MBS (CMBS), was down 2.14% during the quarter. The higher income and decline in spreads over U.S. Treasuries helped to keep the sector from falling as much as comparable duration U.S. Treasuries. The asset-backed securities (ABS) segment of the portfolio was the only positive returning sector as its lower duration and relatively attractive yield helped to support returns as yields rose.

As of quarter end, the Fund's duration was 3.97 years vs. the Benchmark's duration of 4.15 years, and its yield advantage remained strong with yield-to-worst at 1.58% vs. 1.29% for the Benchmark.

As of 03/31/2021, the average annual returns for CRAIX for 1-year, 5-year, 10-year and since inception (8/30/1999) were 0.39%; 1.76%; 2.34%; and 3.80%. The average annual returns for CRANX for 1-year, 5-year, 10-year and since CRANX inception (3/2/2007) were 0.84%; 2.21%; 2.79%; and 3.40%. The average annual returns for CRATX for the same periods were 0.49%; 1.87%; 2.44% and 3.04%. As of 03/31/2021, the 30-Day SEC yield for the CRA Shares, Institutional Shares, and Retail Shares was 1.10%, 1.55%, and 1.20% respectively. Performance quoted is past performance and does not guarantee future results. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. An investor's investment return and principal value will fluctuate so that your shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than your initial cost. To obtain the most recent month-end performance, call 877-272-1977. The annual operating expenses for the CRA Qualified Investment Fund's CRA Shares, Institutional Shares, and Retail Shares is 0.91%; 0.46% and 0.81% respectively.

Data sources: Barclays Live, Bloomberg PORT, and eVestment Alliance.

CCM is an investment adviser registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

**Risk Considerations:** Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal. Bonds and bond funds will decrease in value as interest rates rise. The CCM Community Impact Bond Fund is not diversified. High yield bonds involve greater risks of default or downgrade and are more volatile than investment grade securities, due to the speculative nature of their investments. There is no guarantee the investment objective or goals of the Fund will be achieved. Holdings are subject to change.

This material must be preceded or accompanied by the current Fund prospectuses. Please read them carefully before investing. The Funds are distributed by SEI Investments Distribution Co., which is not affiliated with Community Capital Management, Inc.