# Financing Trends in Healthcare and Higher Education

Prepared for the

National Association of Health and Educational Facilities Finance Authorities

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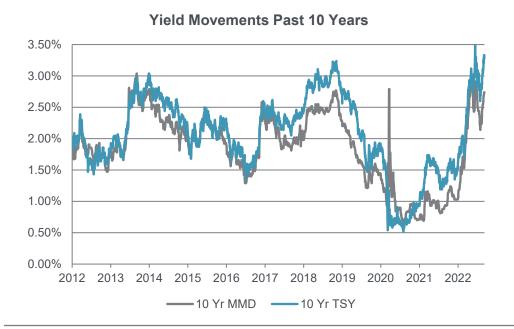
# **Discussion Agenda**

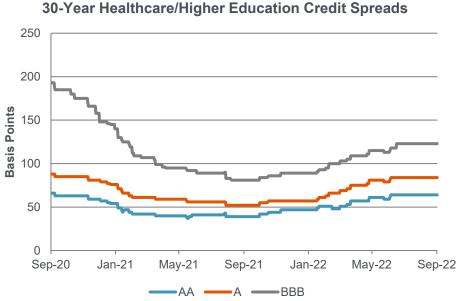
- **Financing Market Update**
- II. Investor and Rating Agency Views
- III. Financing Trends

## Overview

### 2022 Year-to-Date Highlights

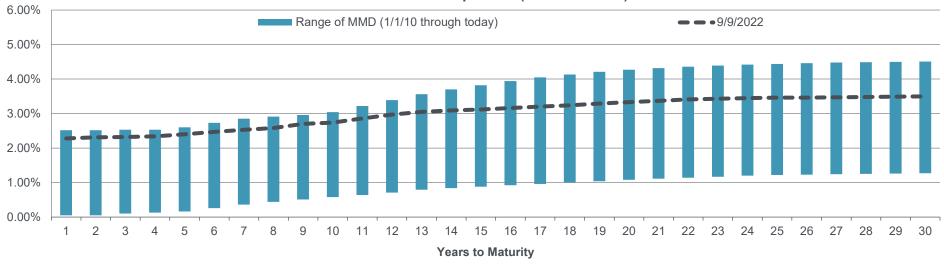
- Yields have increased since late 2021. Since the beginning of 2022, tax-exempt and taxable interest rates have risen above their 5 and 10 year averages.
  - Since 2010, 10-year MMD has been lower than its current rate 96.48% of the time.
  - Since 2010, 10-year Treasury yield has been lower than its current rate 99.81% of the time.
- Limited demand in 2022 drove municipal yields and spreads up along with continued concerns of rising inflation, has lead to higher Treasury and municipal yields.
- The municipal/Treasury ratio recently eclipsed 100% due to continued Fed activity and general market volatility, a lower ratio is typically more beneficial for tax-exempt issuers.





## **Historical Interest Rates**

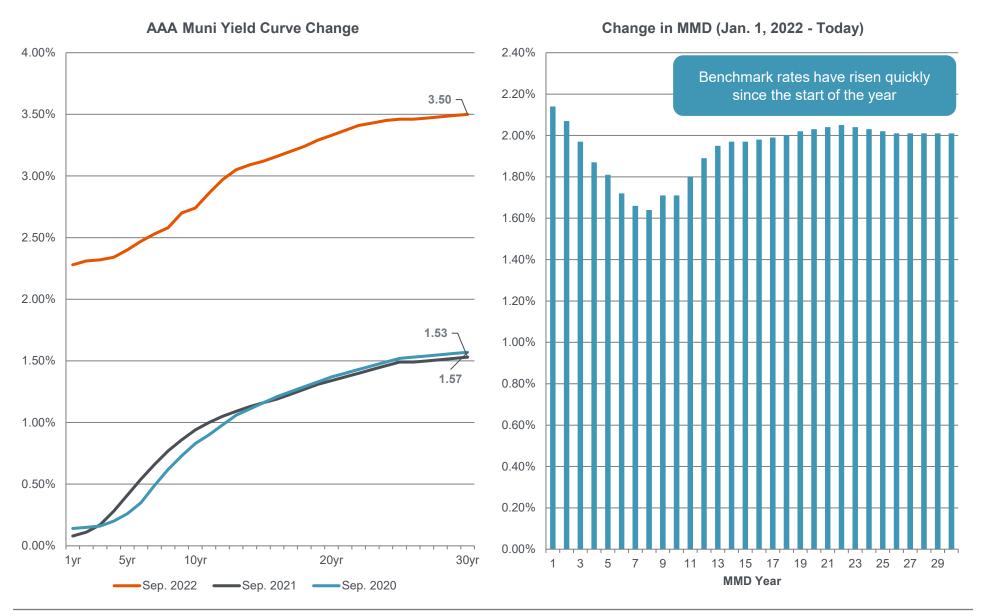




#### **Historical Tax-Exempt Trend**

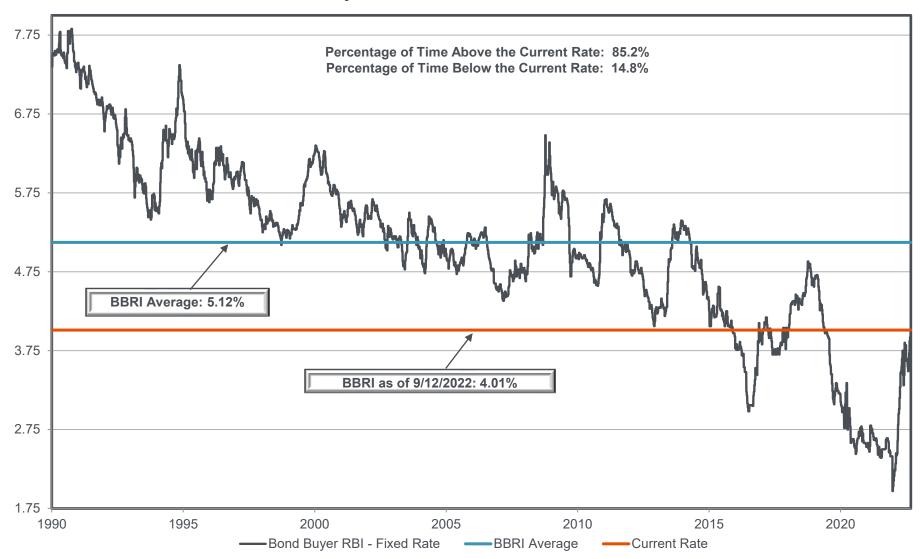


# **Municipal Market Yield Curve**



## **Bond Buyer Revenue Index**

The Bond Buyer Revenue Bond Index 25 Rated Issues (average rating equivalent to Moody's A1 and S&P A+) 30 year term - AMT and Non-AMT Issues

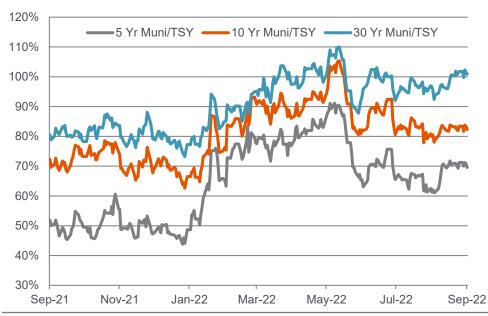


Source: Bond Buyer

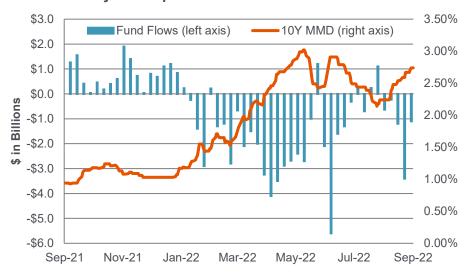
## **Municipal Supply and Demand**

- · After experiencing 45 straight weeks of fund inflows through 2021 and into 2022, municipal funds have since seen outflows in 28 of the last 33 weeks.
- Tax-exempt to treasury ratios have been volatile in 2022 as investors adjust to the Fed's policy changes.
- Borrowers are still able to push for more favorable covenants despite the current market environment.

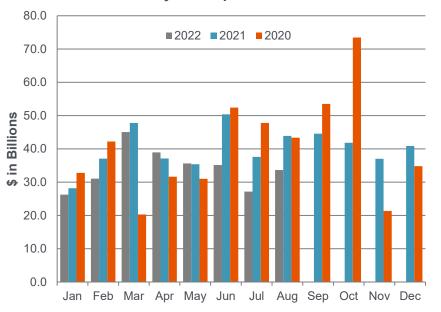
#### **Recent Tax-Exempt to Taxable Ratios**



#### Weekly Municipal Fund Flows and Market Yields



#### **Monthly Municipal Issuance**



Source: Lipper, TM3, and Bond Buyer As of 9/12/2022

## **Economic Update and Market Expectations**

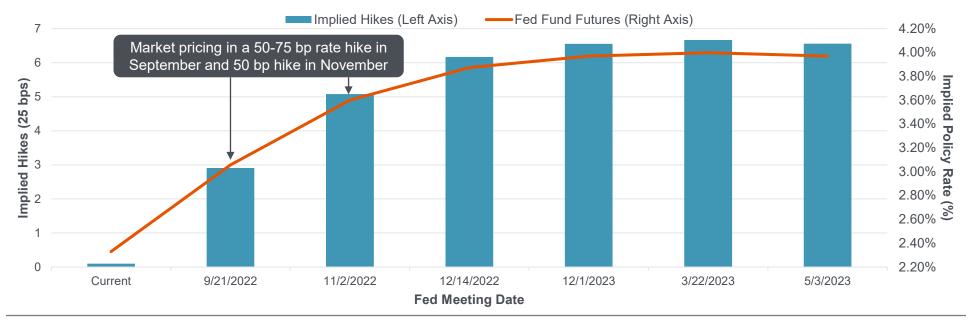
#### **Economic Forecast**

| 2021 |  | 20  | 22  |   |   | 2023  |   |
|------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Q4   | Q1   | Q2  | Q3  | Q4  | Q1  | Q2  | Q3  |
| 5.5  | 3.5  | 1.6   | 1.5   | 0.1   | 0.7   | 1.0   | 0.9   |
| 6.7  | 8.0  | 8.7   | 8.2   | 7.2   | 5.8   | 3.9   | 3.1   |
| 4.6  | 5.2  | 4.8   | 4.6   | 4.3   | 3.7   | 3.3   | 3.0   |
| 4.2  | 3.8  | 3.6   | 3.6   | 3.7   | 3.9   | 4.1   | 4.2   |
| 0.25 | 0.50   | 1.75  | 3.10  | 3.75  | 3.85  | 3.80  | 3.65  |
| 0.73 | 2.34   | 2.96  | 3.43  | 3.55  | 3.52  | 3.42  | 3.19  |
| 1.51 | 2.34   | 3.02  | 3.18  | 3.18  | 3.19  | 3.18  | 3.10  |
| 1.90 | 2.44   | 3.41  | 3.32  | 3.35  | 3.35  | 3.33  | 3.29  |
|      | Q4<br>5.5<br>6.7<br>4.6<br>4.2<br>0.25<br>0.73<br>1.51 | Q4     Q1       5.5     3.5       6.7     8.0       4.6     5.2       4.2     3.8       0.25     0.50       0.73     2.34       1.51     2.34 | Q4     Q1     Q2       5.5     3.5     1.6       6.7     8.0     8.7       4.6     5.2     4.8       4.2     3.8     3.6       0.25     0.50     1.75       0.73     2.34     2.96       1.51     2.34     3.02 | Q4     Q1     Q2     Q3       5.5     3.5     1.6     1.5       6.7     8.0     8.7     8.2       4.6     5.2     4.8     4.6       4.2     3.8     3.6     3.6       0.25     0.50     1.75     3.10       0.73     2.34     2.96     3.43       1.51     2.34     3.02     3.18 | Q4         Q1         Q2         Q3         Q4           5.5         3.5         1.6         1.5         0.1           6.7         8.0         8.7         8.2         7.2           4.6         5.2         4.8         4.6         4.3           4.2         3.8         3.6         3.6         3.7           0.25         0.50         1.75         3.10         3.75           0.73         2.34         2.96         3.43         3.55           1.51         2.34         3.02         3.18         3.18 | Q4         Q1         Q2         Q3         Q4         Q1           5.5         3.5         1.6         1.5         0.1         0.7           6.7         8.0         8.7         8.2         7.2         5.8           4.6         5.2         4.8         4.6         4.3         3.7           4.2         3.8         3.6         3.6         3.7         3.9           0.25         0.50         1.75         3.10         3.75         3.85           0.73         2.34         2.96         3.43         3.55         3.52           1.51         2.34         3.02         3.18         3.18         3.19 | Q4         Q1         Q2         Q3         Q4         Q1         Q2           5.5         3.5         1.6         1.5         0.1         0.7         1.0           6.7         8.0         8.7         8.2         7.2         5.8         3.9           4.6         5.2         4.8         4.6         4.3         3.7         3.3           4.2         3.8         3.6         3.6         3.7         3.9         4.1           0.25         0.50         1.75         3.10         3.75         3.85         3.80           0.73         2.34         2.96         3.43         3.55         3.52         3.42           1.51         2.34         3.02         3.18         3.18         3.19         3.18 |

Inflation measures are expected to moderate over the next 12 months while treasuries begin to flatten

#### Market Expectations for Future Rate Targets





Source: Piper Sandler Research, Bloomberg

# **Discussion Agenda**

- Financing Market Update
- **II. Investor and Rating Agency Views**
- III. Financing Trends

## Overview of Rating Agency and Investor Approach



Healthcare and higher education sectors are managing through operating challenges in 2022.



• Credit analysts, whether rating agencies or investors/lenders, have become increasingly sophisticated in their credit analysis of borrowers in these sectors.



• The three primary rating agencies, Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's and Fitch, have each created a framework for how they evaluate non-profit and municipal healthcare and higher education institutions.



 As credit analysts, they are always concerned about "the numbers" such as financial ratios, growth metrics, and comparison to peers – rating agency medians are published annually.



However, qualitative factors are also important.



 In this section we provide an overview of the current Moody's methodologies as examples of the type of credit analysis that investors and analysts undertake.



 Lenders and investors evaluate borrowers using similar criteria, but may come to a different credit conclusion than the rating agencies.

## Rating Agency Outlooks for Healthcare Sector in 2022

#### Commentary

- Negative outlook for 2022
- Moody's has kept a negative outlook as the rating agency expects 2022 operating cash flow to decline 2%-9% compared to 2021
- · Moody's expects nursing shortages and increased labor costs to push expenses higher while revenue growth to lag behind
- Repayment of Medicare advances will cut into providers' liquidity
- Legislative, regulatory and judicial activity will continue to add risk
- Stable outlook for 2022

## S&P Global Ratings

Moody's

- The rating agency believes that strong balance sheets and a pivot towards virtual health will help providers navigate challenges in 2022
- Low interest rates and access to capital has helped provide additional flexibility
- Credit quality gap between stronger and weaker rated providers will likely widen

# Fitch Ratings

- Deteriorating outlook for 2022 (revised from "Neutral" in August 2022)
- Labor pressures will remain high even if broader inflation improves
- Record levels of cash and investments through much of 2021 have contracted considerably as MAAP funds are paid back and financial markets weaken
- Local economics will be even more important in determining hospital credit quality with strong population growth providing top-line revenue opportunity to balance expense challenges

## Rating Agency Outlooks for Higher Education Sector in 2022

#### Commentary

- Stable outlook for 2022
- Operating revenue is expected to rise 4-6% following students' return to campus this fall
- · Inflation and labor shortages will push spending higher, diminishing margins
- Record investment returns in 2021 will bolster wealth and liquidity
- Social and cyber risks pose challenges amid strained budgets
- Stable outlook for 2022 (after 4 years of negative outlook)
- Strong support for higher education on the federal level provides financial flexibility. Usage and reporting of federal stimulus funds will span several years

## S&P Global Ratings

Moody's

- Strong liquidity and expectation of stabilized enrollment will offset economic uncertainties
- Disparity between higher and lower rated schools grows
- With entrance tests optional, applications have increased significantly, skewing selectivity
- International enrollment is improving from lows in fall 2020

# Stable outlook for 2022

- Most universities are planning for a predominantly in-person, on-campus academic year, which should help to stabilize student-driven enterprises, including auxiliaries
- Top choice and selective four-year institutions have retained solid enrollment, although others continue to see pressures, particularly in the incoming freshman and transfer student groups
- The sector continues to benefit from substantial federal stimulus authorization, with calendar year 2022 likely the last year of meaningful budgetary support from any remaining stimulus funds



## **Quantitative and Qualitative Factors**



- Past Financial Performance
- **Projected Financial** Performance
- Cash Flow
- Liquidity
- **Existing Debt Obligations**
- **Historical Capital** Investment
- **Future Capital Needs** and Funding



**Qualitative** 





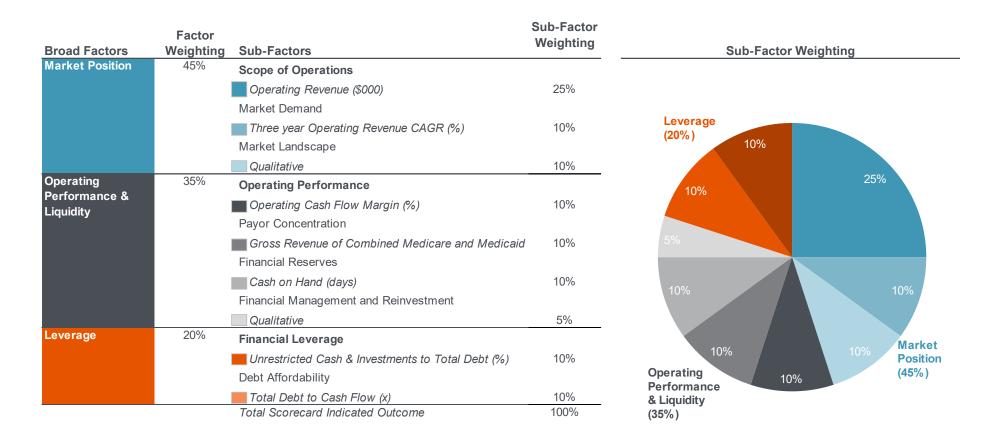
- Market Position/Competition
- Third Party Reimbursement
- Demand, Enrollment, & Retention
- Faculty & Medical Staff
- Management Capabilities
- **Long Term Market** Strategies
- **Demographics**
- Governance

## Overview of Moody's Rating Methodology

- Moody's revised its non-profit healthcare rating methodology in March 2021 and its higher education rating methodology in August 2021.
- Key factors have been identified and weighted based on the priority and importance of each factor.
- The factors are captured in broad categories: scale, market profile, operating performance, financial resources and liquidity, leverage and coverage, and financial policy.
- The Moody's scorecard is not all-encompassing: (1) ratings incorporate expectations of future performance while the scorecard is based on historical performance (2) the scorecard does not include all potential factors in a rating outcome, and (3) the weighted impacts of factors may differ from the model in some circumstances.
- Organizational size is a significant factor, with operating revenues making up 25% of the model outcome for healthcare and 15% of the model outcome for higher education.
- Additional analysis includes comparisons to rating medians and peers.
- The following pages provide detail on the Moody's methodology for healthcare and higher education institutions.

## **Moody's Rating Scorecard - Healthcare**

- Moody's initial indicative rating analysis relies heavily on the "Scorecard" method in which factors are given a weighting to arrive at an initial indicative rating. The rating is then adjusted up or down based on other nonquantified aspects like local economy strength, peer analysis, etc.
- The rating analyst and committee have leeway to apply their own judgement.

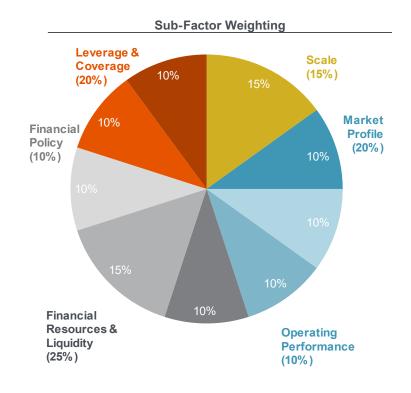


## **Moody's Rating Scorecard – Higher Education**

Whereas Moody's health care rating methodology consists of just market position, operating performance and liquidity, and leverage, Moody's Higher Education Methodology incorporates the following: scale, market profile, operating performance, financial resources and liquidity, leverage and coverage, and financial policy.

Sub Easter

| Broad Factors                           | Factor<br>Weighting | Sub-Factors  | Sub-Factor<br>Weighting |
|---|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Scale                                   | 15%                 | Adjusted Operating Revenue   | 15%                     |
| Market Profile                          | 20%                 | Brand and Strategic Positioning  Operating Environment                         | 10%<br>10%              |
| Operating<br>Performance                | 10%                 | EBIDA Margin   | 10%                     |
| Financial<br>Resources and<br>Liquidity | 25%                 | Total Cash and Investments  Total Cash and Investments/Operating Expenses      | 10%<br>15%              |
| Leverage &<br>Coverage                  | 20%                 | ■ Total Cash and Investments/Total Adj. Debt<br>■ Annual Debt Service Coverage | 10%<br>10%              |
| Financial Policy                        | 10%                 | Financial Policy   | 10%                     |
|   |                     | Total Scorecard Indicated Outcome  | 100%                    |



## **ESG Considerations in Credit Ratings**

- Rating agencies have begun incorporating ESG factors into their credit ratings. Moody's, in particular, has begun providing Issuer Profile Scores that assess an entity's exposure to ESG risks.
- Below are the ESG considerations Moody's incorporates into their analysis:

| Environmental          | So                              | cial                     | Governance                                |                                    |  |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
|                        | Private Sector                  | Public Sector            | Private Sector                            | Public Sector                      |  |
| Physical climate risks | Customer relations              | Access to basic services | Financial strategy & risk management      | Institutional structure            |  |
| Carbon transition      | Demographic and societal trends | Demographics             | Management credibility<br>& track record  | Policy credibility & effectiveness |  |
| Water management       | Human capital                   | Education                | Organizational structure                  | Budget management                  |  |
| Waste and pollution    | Health and safety               | Health and safety        | Board structure, policies<br>& procedures | Transparency & disclosure          |  |
| Natural capital        | Responsible production          | Housing                  | Compliance & reporting                    |                                    |  |
|                        |                                 | Labor and income         |   |                                    |  |

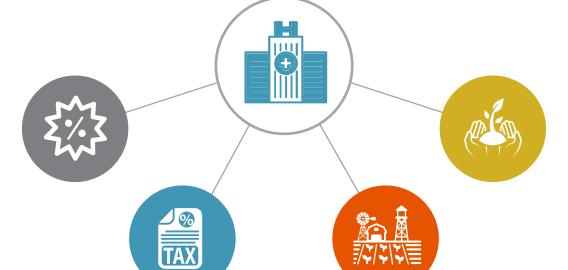
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## **Current Financing Trends**

## **Fixed Rate Tax-Exempt**

- · Widening spreads and higher Treasury yields have made tax-exempt debt more attractive for borrowers
- Can be accessed through public offering or private placement
- Needs qualifying tax-exempt use



#### **Social Impact or Green Bonds**

- Environmental, social and governance (ESG) or sustainable finance
- Growing investor segment
- Still in early stages for healthcare borrowers and investors

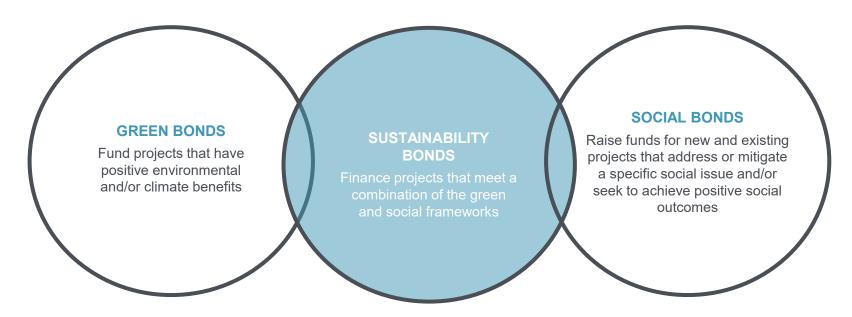
#### **Fixed Rate Taxable**

- Significant number of borrowers accessed this market in 2020 and 2021, although less attractive now
- Also can be done through public offering or private placement
- Interest rate premium but flexibility of use of proceeds vs. tax-exempt
- · Advance refunding technique

#### **USDA** Financing

- "Rural" hospitals and colleges
- Long-term, low cost financing
- Upfront time commitment and longer timeline through multi-step process

## **ESG Bond Designations and Project Categories**





#### **GREEN BONDS**

Examples of eligible green project categories include renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention and control, eco-efficient and/or circular economy adapted products, production technologies, green buildings, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation, clean transportation.



#### **CERTIFIED CLIMATE BONDS**

An additional designation that certifies a bond issue's conformance with the 1.5 degrees Celsius target declared in the 2015 Paris Agreement. In order to receive the Certification mark, a prospective issuer must appoint an Approved Verifier, who will provide assurance that the bond meets the Climate Bonds Standard's requirements.



#### **SOCIAL BONDS**

Social project categories include providing and/or promoting affordable basic infrastructure, access to essential services, affordable housing, employment generation, food security, or socioeconomic advancement and empowerment.

## **Disclosures**

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