

The Growth Fund of America®

Class	Ticker	F-1	GFAFX	529-C	CGFCX
A	AGTHX	F-2	GFFFX	529-E.....	CGFEX
B	AGRBX	529-A.....	CGFAX	529-F-1.....	CGFFX
C	GFACT	529-B.....	CGFBX		

Prospectus

November 1, 2009

Table of contents

1	Investment objective
1	Fees and expenses of the fund
3	Principal investment strategies
3	Principal risks
4	Investment results
6	Management
7	Purchase and sale of fund shares
7	Tax information
7	Payments to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries
8	Investment objective, strategies and risks
10	Additional investment results
12	Management and organization
16	Shareholder information
17	Choosing a share class
21	Purchase, exchange and sale of shares
27	Sales charges
31	Sales charge reductions and waivers
35	Rollovers from retirement plans to IRAs
35	Plans of distribution
36	Other compensation to dealers
37	How to sell shares
39	Distributions and taxes
40	Financial highlights

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved of these securities. Further, it has not determined that this prospectus is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Investment objective

The fund's investment objective is to provide you with growth of capital.

Fees and expenses of the fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the fund. You may qualify for sales charge discounts if you and your family invest, or agree to invest in the future, at least \$25,000 in American Funds. More information about these and other discounts is available from your financial professional and in the "Sales charge reductions and waivers" section on page 31 of the prospectus and on page 56 of the fund's statement of additional information.

Shareholder fees (fees paid directly from your investment)					
	Share classes				
	A and 529-A	B and 529-B	C and 529-C	529-E	F-1, F-2 and 529-F-1
Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on purchases (as a percentage of offering price)	5.75%	none	none	none	none
Maximum deferred sales charge (load) (as a percentage of the amount redeemed)	none	5.00%	1.00%	none	none
Maximum sales charge (load) imposed on reinvested dividends	none	none	none	none	none
Redemption or exchange fees	none	none	none	none	none
Maximum annual account fee (529 share classes only)	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10

Annual fund operating expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)					
	Share classes				
	A	B	C	F-1	F-2
Management fees	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	0.24	1.00	1.00	0.25	none
Other expenses	0.24	0.22	0.22	0.16	0.18
Total annual fund operating expenses	0.76	1.50	1.50	0.69	0.46
	529-A	529-B	529-C	529-E	529-F-1
Management fees	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%	0.28%
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	0.20	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00
Other expenses	0.29	0.30	0.30	0.29	0.29
Total annual fund operating expenses	0.77	1.58	1.58	1.07	0.57

Example

This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds.

The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year, that all dividends and capital gain distributions are reinvested, that you pay the maximum initial or contingent deferred sales charge, and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions, your costs would be:

Share classes	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
A	\$648	\$804	\$ 973	\$1,463
B	653	874	1,018	1,590
C	253	474	818	1,791
F-1	70	221	384	859
F-2	47	148	258	579
529-A	669	846	1,037	1,579
529-B	680	938	1,117	1,762
529-C	280	538	917	1,978
529-E	129	380	648	1,408
529-F-1	78	222	377	820

For the share classes listed below, you would pay the following if you did not redeem your shares:

Share classes	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years
B	\$153	\$474	\$818	\$1,590
C	153	474	818	1,791
529-B	180	538	917	1,762
529-C	180	538	917	1,978

Portfolio turnover

The fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example, affect the fund's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the fund's portfolio turnover rate was 38% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal investment strategies

The fund invests primarily in common stocks and seeks to invest in companies that appear to offer superior opportunities for growth of capital.

The fund relies on the professional judgment of its investment adviser to make decisions about the fund's portfolio investments. The basic investment philosophy of the investment adviser is to seek to invest in attractively valued companies that, in its opinion, represent good, long-term investment opportunities. The investment adviser believes that an important way to accomplish this is through fundamental analysis, which may include meeting with company executives and employees, suppliers, customers and competitors. Securities may be sold when the investment adviser believes that they no longer represent relatively attractive investment opportunities. The investment adviser uses a system of multiple portfolio counselors in managing the fund's assets. Under this approach, the portfolio of the fund is divided into segments managed by individual counselors who decide how their respective segments will be invested.

Principal risks

You may lose money by investing in the fund. The likelihood of loss may be greater if you invest for a shorter period of time.

Investors in the fund should have a long-term perspective and, for example, be able to tolerate potentially sharp declines in value.

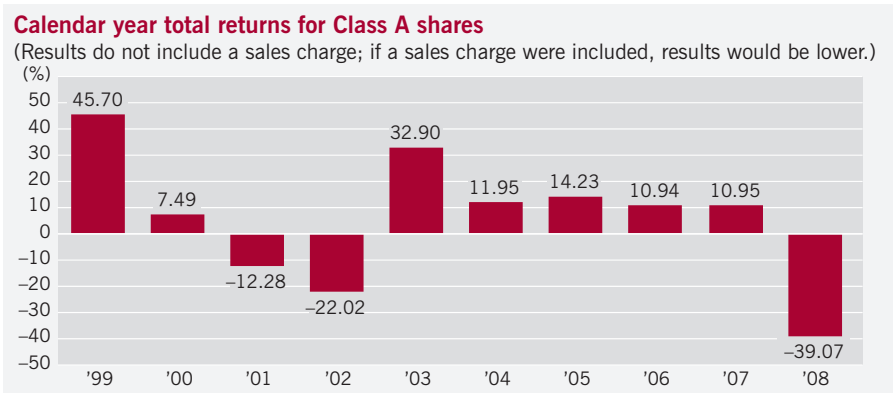
The prices of the common stocks and other securities held by the fund may decline in response to certain events taking place around the world, including those directly involving the issuers whose securities are owned by the fund; conditions affecting the general economy; overall market changes; local, regional or global political, social or economic instability; governmental or governmental agency responses to economic conditions; and currency, interest rate and commodity price fluctuations. The growth-oriented common stocks and other equity-type securities, such as preferred stocks, convertible preferred stocks and convertible bonds, generally purchased by the fund may involve large price swings and potential for loss.

Investments in securities issued by entities based outside the United States may also be affected by currency controls; different accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and legal standards and practices; expropriation; changes in tax policy; greater market volatility; different securities market structures; higher transaction costs; and various administrative difficulties, such as delays in clearing and settling portfolio transactions or in receiving payment of dividends. Investments in securities issued by entities domiciled in the United States may also be subject to many of these risks.

Your investment in the fund is not a bank deposit and is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other government agency, entity or person.

Investment results

The bar chart below shows how the fund's investment results have varied from year to year, and the table on page 5 shows how the fund's average annual total returns for various periods compare with a broad measure of market performance. This information provides some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. Past results (before and after taxes) are not predictive of future results. Updated information on the fund's results can be obtained by visiting americanfunds.com.



Highest/Lowest quarterly results during this time period were:

Highest 25.10% (quarter ended December 31, 1999)

Lowest -23.11% (quarter ended December 31, 2008)

The fund's total return for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, was 27.05%.

Average annual total returns

For the periods ended December 31, 2008 (with maximum sales charge):

Share class	Inception date	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime
A – Before taxes	12/1/73	-42.57%	-2.00%	2.55%	13.03%
– After taxes on distributions		-42.67	-2.40	1.82	N/A
– After taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares		-27.54	-1.53	2.16	N/A
Share class (before taxes)	Inception date	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime
B	3/15/00	-42.55%	-1.93%	-2.61%	
C	3/15/01	-40.17	-1.63	-0.98	
F-1	3/15/01	-39.07	-0.83	-0.18	
529-A	2/15/02	-42.60	-2.04	-0.29	
529-B	2/15/02	-42.61	-2.06	-0.29	
529-C	2/15/02	-40.21	-1.70	-0.29	
529-E	3/1/02	-39.28	-1.19	0.03	
529-F-1	9/16/02	-38.98	-0.77	4.05	
Indexes (before taxes)		1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime ²
S&P 500 ¹		-36.99%	-2.19%	-1.38%	10.05%

¹ Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Index (S&P 500) reflects the market sectors in which the fund primarily invests. See page 11 of this prospectus for more information on the index listed above.

² Lifetime results for the index(es) shown are measured from the date Capital Research and Management Company became the fund's investment adviser.

After-tax returns are shown only for Class A shares; after-tax returns for other share classes will vary. After-tax returns are calculated using the highest individual federal income tax rates in effect during each year of the periods shown and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Your actual after-tax returns depend on your individual tax situation and likely will differ from the results shown above. In addition, after-tax returns are not relevant if you hold your fund shares through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan, individual retirement account (IRA) or 529 college savings plan.

Management

Investment adviser

Capital Research and Management Company, the investment adviser to the fund, uses a system of multiple portfolio counselors in managing mutual fund assets.

Portfolio counselors

The primary individual portfolio counselors for the fund are:

Portfolio counselor/ Fund title (if applicable)	Portfolio counselor experience in this fund	Primary title with investment adviser (or one of its divisions)
Donnalisa Barnum	8 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
Gordon Crawford Senior Vice President	18 years	Senior Vice President - Capital Research Global Investors
James E. Drasdo	24 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
J. Blair Frank	8 years	Senior Vice President - Capital Research Global Investors
Gregg E. Ireland Senior Vice President	5 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
Michael T. Kerr Senior Vice President	11 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
Ronald B. Morrow	5 years	Senior Vice President - Capital World Investors
Donald D. O'Neal President	16 years	Senior Vice President - Capital Research Global Investors
James F. Rothenberg Vice Chairman of the Board	21 years	Chairman of the Board, Capital Research and Management Company

Purchase and sale of fund shares

Purchase minimums (for all share classes)

To establish an account (including retirement plan and 529 accounts)	\$250
For a payroll deduction retirement plan account, payroll deduction savings plan account or employer-sponsored 529 account	25
To add to an account	50
For a payroll deduction retirement plan account, payroll deduction savings plan account or employer-sponsored 529 account	25

You may sell (redeem) shares through your dealer or financial adviser or by writing to American Funds Service Company at P.O. Box 6007, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6007; telephoning (800/421-0180); faxing (317/735-6636) American Funds Service Company; or accessing our website (americanfunds.com).

Tax information

Dividends and capital gain distributions you receive from the fund are subject to federal income taxes and may also be subject to state and local taxes.

Payments to broker-dealers and other financial intermediaries

If you purchase shares of the fund through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), the fund and the fund's distributor or its affiliates may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your individual financial adviser to recommend the fund over another investment. Ask your individual financial adviser or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

Investment objective, strategies and risks

The fund's investment objective is to provide you with growth of capital. The fund invests primarily in common stocks and seeks to invest in companies that appear to offer superior opportunities for growth of capital.

The prices of the common stocks and other securities held by the fund may decline in response to certain events taking place around the world, including those directly involving the issuers whose securities are owned by the fund; conditions affecting the general economy; overall market changes; local, regional or global political, social or economic instability; governmental or governmental agency responses to economic conditions; and currency, interest rate and commodity price fluctuations. The growth-oriented common stocks and other equity-type securities, such as preferred stocks, convertible preferred stocks and convertible bonds, generally purchased by the fund may involve large price swings and potential for loss.

The fund may also hold cash or money market instruments. The percentage of the fund invested in such holdings varies and depends on various factors, including market conditions and purchases and redemptions of fund shares. For temporary defensive purposes, the fund may hold a significant portion of its assets in such securities. A larger percentage of such holdings could moderate the fund's investment results in a period of rising market prices. A larger percentage of cash or money market instruments could reduce the magnitude of the fund's loss in a period of falling market prices and provide liquidity to make additional investments or to meet redemptions.

Other important investment practices

In addition to the principal investment strategies described above, the fund has other investment practices that are described in this prospectus and in the statement of additional information.

The fund may invest up to 15% of its assets in securities of issuers domiciled outside the United States and Canada and not included in Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Index. In addition to the risks described above, investments in securities issued by entities based outside the United States may be affected by currency controls; different accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and legal standards and practices; expropriation; changes in tax policy; greater market volatility; different securities market structures; higher transaction costs; and various administrative difficulties, such as delays in clearing and settling portfolio transactions or in receiving payment of dividends. These risks may be heightened in connection with investments in developing countries. Investments in securities issued by entities domiciled in the United States may also be subject to many of these risks.

The fund may invest up to 10% of its assets in lower quality nonconvertible debt securities (rated Ba1 or below by Moody's Investors Service and BB+ or below by Standard & Poor's Corporation or unrated but determined by the fund's investment adviser to be of equivalent quality). Such securities are sometimes referred to as "junk bonds." The values of debt securities may be affected by changing interest rates and by changes in effective maturities and credit ratings of these securities. For example, the values of debt securities generally decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. Debt securities are also subject to credit risk, which is the possibility that the credit strength of an issuer will weaken and/or an issuer of a debt security will fail to make timely payments of principal or interest and the security will go into default. Lower quality debt securities generally have higher rates of interest and may be subject to greater price fluctuations than higher quality debt securities. In addition, longer maturity debt securities generally have higher rates of interest and may be subject to greater price fluctuations than shorter maturity debt securities.

The fund's investment adviser attempts to reduce these risks through diversification of the portfolio and ongoing credit analysis, as well as by monitoring economic and legislative developments, but there can be no assurance that it will be successful at doing so.

Additional investment results

Unlike the table on page 5, the table below reflects the fund's results calculated without sales charges.

Average annual total returns					
For the periods ended December 31, 2008 (without sales charge):					
Share class	Inception date	1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime
A – Before taxes	12/1/73	-39.07%	-0.83%	3.16%	13.22%
– After taxes on distributions		-39.18	-1.24	2.42	N/A
– After taxes on distributions and sale of fund shares		-25.26	-0.54	2.70	N/A
Share class (before taxes)	Inception date	1 year	5 years	Lifetime	
B	3/15/00	-39.53%	-1.57%	-2.61%	
C	3/15/01	-39.56	-1.63	-0.98	
F-1	3/15/01	-39.07	-0.83	-0.18	
529-A	2/15/02	-39.09	-0.88	0.57	
529-B	2/15/02	-39.59	-1.70	-0.29	
529-C	2/15/02	-39.60	-1.70	-0.29	
529-E	3/1/02	-39.28	-1.19	0.03	
529-F-1	9/16/02	-38.98	-0.77	4.05	
Indexes¹ (before taxes)		1 year	5 years	10 years	Lifetime²
S&P 500		-36.99%	-2.19%	-1.38%	10.05%
Lipper Capital Appreciation Funds Index		-39.08	-1.19	-0.44	10.03
Lipper Growth Funds Index		-42.24	-4.25	-3.08	8.72
Lipper Multi-Cap Growth Funds Index		-42.44	-2.95	-2.36	9.69
Lipper Multi-Cap Core Funds Index		-39.45	-2.29	-0.47	9.55

¹ S&P 500 reflects the market sectors in which the fund primarily invests. Lipper Growth Funds Index and Multi-Cap Growth Funds Index include the fund. All four Lipper indexes include mutual funds which disclose investment objectives that are reasonably comparable to those of the fund.

² Lifetime results for the index(es) shown are measured from the date Capital Research and Management Company became the fund's investment adviser.

The investment results tables above and on page 5 show how the fund's average annual total returns compare with various broad measures of market performance. Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Index is a market capitalization-weighted index based on the average weighted performance of 500 widely held common stocks. This index is unmanaged and its results include reinvested dividends and/or distributions, but do not reflect the effect of sales charges, commissions, expenses or taxes. Lipper Capital Appreciation Funds Index is an equally weighted index of funds that aim for maximum capital appreciation. Lipper Growth Funds Index is an equally weighted index of growth funds. These funds normally invest in companies with long-term earnings that are expected to grow significantly faster than the earnings of the stocks represented in the major unmanaged indexes. Lipper Multi-Cap Growth Funds Index is an equally weighted index of funds that invest in a variety of market capitalization ranges without concentrating 75% of their equity assets in any one market capitalization range over an extended period of time. Multi-cap growth funds typically have an above-average price-to-earnings ratio, price-to-book ratio and three-year sales-per-share growth value, compared with the S&P SuperComposite 1500 Index (a broad-based index representing the large-cap, mid-cap and small-cap segments of the U.S. equity market). The Lipper Multi-Cap Core Funds Index is an equally weighted index of funds that invest in a variety of market capitalization ranges without concentrating 75% of their equity assets in any one market capitalization range over an extended period of time. Multi-cap core funds typically have an average price-to-earnings ratio, price-to-book ratio and three-year sales-per-share growth value, compared with the S&P SuperComposite 1500 Index. The results of the underlying funds in each of these Lipper indexes include the reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions, as well as brokerage commissions paid by the funds for portfolio transactions, but do not reflect the effect of sales charges or taxes.

All fund results reflected in the "Investment results" section of this prospectus and this "Additional investment results" section reflect the reinvestment of dividends and capital gain distributions, if any. Unless otherwise noted, fund results reflect any fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements in effect during the period presented.

Management and organization

Investment adviser

Capital Research and Management Company, an experienced investment management organization founded in 1931, serves as investment adviser to the fund and other funds, including the American Funds. Capital Research and Management Company is a wholly owned subsidiary of The Capital Group Companies, Inc. and is located at 333 South Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90071, and 6455 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine, California 92618. Capital Research and Management Company manages the investment portfolio and business affairs of the fund. The total management fee paid by the fund, as a percentage of average net assets, for the previous fiscal year appears in the Annual Fund Operating Expenses table under "Fees and expenses of the fund." Please see the statement of additional information for further details. A discussion regarding the basis for the approval of the fund's investment advisory and service agreement by the fund's board of directors is contained in the fund's annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2009.

Capital Research and Management Company manages equity assets through two investment divisions, Capital World Investors and Capital Research Global Investors, and manages fixed-income assets through its Fixed Income division. Capital World Investors and Capital Research Global Investors make investment decisions on an independent basis.

Rather than remain as investment divisions, Capital World Investors and Capital Research Global Investors may be incorporated into wholly owned subsidiaries of Capital Research and Management Company. In that event, Capital Research and Management Company would continue to be the investment adviser, and day-to-day investment management of equity assets would continue to be carried out through one or both of these subsidiaries. Although not currently contemplated, Capital Research and Management Company could incorporate its Fixed Income division in the future and engage it to provide day-to-day investment management of fixed-income assets. Capital Research and Management Company and each of the funds it advises have applied to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for an exemptive order that would give Capital Research and Management Company the authority to use, upon approval of the fund's board, its management subsidiaries and affiliates to provide day-to-day investment management services to the fund, including making changes to the management subsidiaries and affiliates providing such services. Approval by the fund's shareholders would be required before any authority granted under an exemptive order could be exercised. A meeting of the fund's shareholders of record as of August 28, 2009, to consider, among other items, approval of this arrangement is scheduled for November 24, 2009. There is no assurance that Capital Research and Management Company will incorporate its investment divisions or obtain shareholders' approval to exercise any authority, if granted, under an exemptive order.

In addition to voting on approval of the arrangement discussed above, shareholders are being asked to vote on other proposals at the meeting. These proposals include electing board members, reorganizing the fund into a Delaware statutory trust, amending the fund's fundamental policies and amending its investment advisory and service agreement. More information on these proposals is contained in a joint proxy statement, which can be found at americanfunds.com/vote.

Execution of portfolio transactions

The investment adviser places orders with broker-dealers for the fund's portfolio transactions. In selecting broker-dealers, the investment adviser strives to obtain "best execution" (the most favorable total price reasonably attainable under the circumstances) for the fund's portfolio transactions, taking into account a variety of factors. Subject to best execution, the investment adviser may consider investment research and/or brokerage services provided to the adviser in placing orders for the fund's portfolio transactions. The investment adviser may place orders for the fund's portfolio transactions with broker-dealers who have sold shares of funds managed by the investment adviser or its affiliated companies; however, it does not give consideration to whether a broker-dealer has sold shares of the funds managed by the investment adviser or its affiliated companies when placing any such orders for the fund's portfolio transactions. A more detailed description of the investment adviser's policies is included in the fund's statement of additional information.

Portfolio holdings

Portfolio holdings information for the fund is available on the American Funds website at americanfunds.com. To reach this information, access the fund's detailed information page on the website. A list of the fund's top 10 equity holdings, updated as of each month-end, is generally posted to this page within 14 days after the end of the applicable month. A link to the fund's complete list of publicly disclosed portfolio holdings, updated as of each calendar quarter-end, is generally posted to this page within 45 days after the end of the applicable quarter. Both lists remain available on the website until new information for the next month or quarter is posted. Portfolio holdings information for the fund is also contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

A description of the fund's policies and procedures regarding disclosure of information about its portfolio holdings is available in the statement of additional information.

Multiple portfolio counselor system

Capital Research and Management Company uses a system of multiple portfolio counselors in managing mutual fund assets. Under this approach, the portfolio of a fund is divided into segments managed by individual counselors who decide how their respective segments will be invested. In addition, Capital Research and Management Company's investment analysts may make investment decisions with respect to a portion of a fund's portfolio. Investment decisions are subject to a fund's objective(s), policies and restrictions and the oversight of the appropriate investment-related committees of Capital Research and Management Company and its investment divisions. The table below shows the investment experience and role in management of the fund for each of the fund's primary portfolio counselors.

Portfolio counselor	Investment experience	Experience in this fund	Role in management of the fund
Donnalisa Barnum	Investment professional for 28 years in total; 23 years with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	8 years	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor
Gordon Crawford	Investment professional for 38 years, all with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	18 years (plus 16 years of prior experience as an investment analyst for the fund)	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor
James E. Drasdo	Investment professional for 38 years in total; 32 years with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	24 years (plus 7 years of prior experience as an investment analyst for the fund)	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor
J. Blair Frank	Investment professional for 16 years in total; 15 years with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	8 years (plus 7 years of prior experience as an investment analyst for the fund)	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor
Gregg E. Ireland	Investment professional for 37 years, all with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	5 years	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor

Portfolio counselor	Investment experience	Experience in this fund	Role in management of the fund
Michael T. Kerr	Investment professional for 26 years in total; 24 years with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	11 years (plus 9 years of prior experience as an investment analyst for the fund)	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor
Ronald B. Morrow	Investment professional for 41 years in total; 12 years with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	5 years (plus 8 years of prior experience as an investment analyst for the fund)	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor
Donald D. O'Neal	Investment professional for 24 years, all with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	16 years (plus 6 years of prior experience as an investment analyst for the fund)	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor
James F. Rothenberg	Investment professional for 39 years, all with Capital Research and Management Company or affiliate	21 years (plus 3 years of prior experience as an investment analyst for the fund)	Serves as an equity portfolio counselor

Information regarding the portfolio counselors' compensation, their ownership of securities in the fund and other accounts they manage is in the statement of additional information.

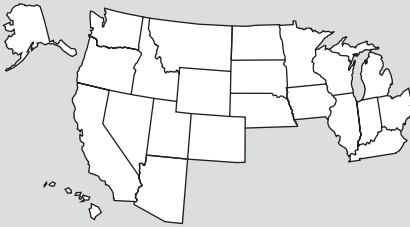
Shareholder information

Shareholder services

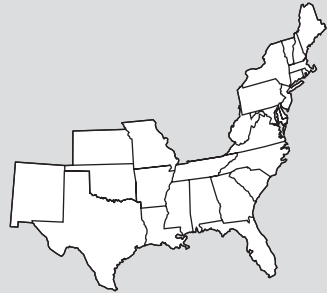
American Funds Service Company®, the fund's transfer agent, offers a wide range of services that you can use to alter your investment program should your needs and circumstances change. These services may be terminated or modified at any time upon 60 days' written notice.

American Funds Service Company service areas

Call toll-free from anywhere in the United States (8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET) | 800/421-0180
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A more detailed description of policies and services is included in the fund's statement of additional information and the owner's guide sent to new American Funds shareholders entitled *Welcome*. Class 529 shareholders should also refer to the applicable program description for information on policies and services specifically relating to their account(s). These documents are available by writing or calling American Funds Service Company. Certain privileges and/or services described on the following pages of this prospectus and in the statement of additional information may not be available to you depending on your investment dealer. Please see your financial adviser or investment dealer for more information.

Choosing a share class

The fund offers different classes of shares through this prospectus. Class A, C, F-1 and F-2 shares are available through various investment programs or accounts, including certain types of retirement plans (see limitations below). The services or share classes available to you may vary depending upon how you wish to purchase shares of the fund. Unless otherwise noted, references in this prospectus to Class F shares refer to both Class F-1 and F-2 shares.

Class B and 529-B shares may no longer be purchased or acquired except by exchange from Class B or 529-B shares of another American Fund. Any investment received by the fund that is intended for Class B or 529-B shares will instead be invested in Class A or 529-A shares and be subject to any applicable sales charges.

Shareholders with investments in Class B and 529-B shares may continue to hold such shares until they convert to Class A or 529-A shares. However, no additional investments will be accepted in Class B or 529-B shares. Dividends and capital gain distributions may continue to be reinvested in Class B or 529-B shares until their conversion dates. In addition, shareholders invested in Class B or 529-B shares will be able to exchange those shares for Class B or 529-B shares of other American Funds offering Class B or 529-B shares until they convert.

Investors residing in any state may purchase Class 529 shares through an account established with a 529 college savings plan managed by the American Funds organization. Class 529-A, 529-B, 529-C and 529-F-1 shares are structured similarly to the corresponding Class A, B, C and F-1 shares. For example, the same initial sales charges apply to Class 529-A shares as to Class A shares. Class 529-E shares are available only to investors participating through an eligible employer plan.

Each share class represents an investment in the same portfolio of securities, but each class has its own sales charge and expense structure, allowing you to choose the class that best fits your situation. **When you purchase shares of the fund, you should choose a share class. If none is chosen, your investment will be made in Class A shares or, in the case of a 529 plan investment, Class 529-A shares.**

Factors you should consider in choosing a class of shares include:

- how long you expect to own the shares;
- how much you intend to invest;
- total expenses associated with owning shares of each class;
- whether you qualify for any reduction or waiver of sales charges (for example, Class A or 529-A shares may be a less expensive option over time, particularly if you qualify for a sales charge reduction or waiver);
- whether you plan to take any distributions in the near future (for example, the contingent deferred sales charge will not be waived if you sell your Class 529-B or 529-C shares to cover higher education expenses); and

- availability of share classes:
 - Class C shares are not available to retirement plans that do not currently invest in such shares and that are eligible to invest in Class R shares, including employer-sponsored retirement plans such as defined benefit plans, 401(k) plans, 457 plans, 403(b) plans, and money purchase pension and profit-sharing plans; and
 - Class F and 529-F-1 shares are generally available only to fee-based programs of investment dealers that have special agreements with the fund's distributor and to certain registered investment advisers.

Each investor's financial considerations are different. You should speak with your financial adviser to help you decide which share class is best for you.

Unless otherwise noted, references in the following pages to Class A, B, C or F-1 shares also refer to the corresponding Class 529-A, 529-B, 529-C or 529-F-1 shares.

Summary of the primary differences among share classes

Class A shares

Initial sales charge	up to 5.75% (reduced for purchases of \$25,000 or more and eliminated for purchases of \$1 million or more)
Contingent deferred sales charge	none (except that a charge of 1.00% applies to certain redemptions made within one year following purchases of \$1 million or more without an initial sales charge)
12b-1 fees	up to .25% annually (for Class 529-A shares, may not exceed .50% annually)
Dividends	generally higher than other classes due to lower annual expenses, but may be lower than Class F-1 shares, depending on relative expenses, and lower than Class F-2 shares due to 12b-1 fees
Purchase maximum	none
Conversion	none

Class B shares

Initial sales charge	none
Contingent deferred sales charge	starts at 5.00%, declining to 0% six years after purchase
12b-1 fees	up to 1.00% annually
Dividends	generally lower than Class A and F shares due to higher 12b-1 fees and other expenses, but higher than Class C shares due to lower other expenses
Purchase maximum	Class B shares may not be purchased or acquired except by exchange from Class B shares of other American Funds
Conversion	automatic conversion to Class A or 529-A shares in the month of the eight-year anniversary of the purchase date, reducing future annual expenses

Class C shares

Initial sales charge	none
Contingent deferred sales charge	1.00% if shares are sold within one year after purchase
12b-1 fees	up to 1.00% annually
Dividends	generally lower than other classes due to higher 12b-1 fees and other expenses
Purchase maximum	see the discussion regarding purchase minimums and maximums in "Purchase and exchange of shares"
Conversion	automatic conversion to Class F-1 shares in the month of the 10-year anniversary of the purchase date, reducing future annual expenses (Class 529-C shares will not convert to Class 529-F-1 shares)

Class 529-E shares

Initial sales charge	none
Contingent deferred sales charge	none
12b-1 fees	currently up to .50% annually (may not exceed .75% annually)
Dividends	generally higher than Class 529-B and 529-C shares due to lower 12b-1 fees, but lower than Class 529-A and 529-F-1 shares due to higher 12b-1 fees
Purchase maximum	none
Conversion	none

Summary of the primary differences among share classes

Class F-1 shares

Initial sales charge	none
Contingent deferred sales charge	none
12b-1 fees	currently up to .25% annually (may not exceed .50% annually)
Dividends	generally higher than Class B and C shares due to lower 12b-1 fees, but may be higher than Class A shares, depending on relative expenses, and lower than Class F-2 shares due to 12b-1 fees
Purchase maximum	none
Conversion	none

Class F-2 shares

Initial sales charge	none
Contingent deferred sales charge	none
12b-1 fees	none
Dividends	generally higher than other classes due to absence of 12b-1 fees
Purchase maximum	none
Conversion	none

Fund expenses

In periods of market volatility, assets of the fund may decline significantly, causing total annual fund operating expenses (as a percentage of the value of your investment) to become higher than the numbers shown in the annual fund operating expenses table in this prospectus.

The "Other expenses" items in the table on page 1 include custodial, legal, transfer agent and subtransfer agent/recordkeeping payments and various other expenses. Subtransfer agent/recordkeeping payments may be made to third parties (including affiliates of the fund's investment adviser) that provide subtransfer agent, recordkeeping and/or shareholder services with respect to certain shareholder accounts in lieu of the transfer agent providing such services. The amount paid for subtransfer agent/recordkeeping services varies depending on the share class and services provided, and typically ranges from \$3 to \$19 per account. For Class 529 shares, an expense of up to a maximum of .10% paid to a state or states for oversight and administrative services is included as an "Other expenses" item.

Purchase, exchange and sale of shares

The fund's transfer agent, on behalf of the fund and American Funds Distributors,[®] the fund's distributor, is required by law to obtain certain personal information from you or any other person(s) acting on your behalf in order to verify your or such person's identity. If you do not provide the information, the transfer agent may not be able to open your account. If the transfer agent is unable to verify your identity or that of any other person(s) authorized to act on your behalf, or believes it has identified potentially criminal activity, the fund and American Funds Distributors reserve the right to close your account or take such other action they deem reasonable or required by law.

When purchasing shares, you should designate the fund or funds in which you wish to invest. If no fund is designated and the amount of your cash investment is more than \$5,000, your money will be held uninvested (without liability to the transfer agent for loss of income or appreciation pending receipt of proper instructions) until investment instructions are received, but for no more than three business days. Your investment will be made at the net asset value (plus any applicable sales charge in the case of Class A shares) next determined after investment instructions are received and accepted by the transfer agent. If investment instructions are not received, your money will be invested in Class A shares of American Funds Money Market FundSM on the third business day after receipt of your investment.

If no fund is designated and the amount of your cash investment is \$5,000 or less, your money will be invested in the same proportion and in the same fund or funds in which your last cash investment (excluding exchanges) was made, provided such investment was made within the last 16 months. If no investment was made within the last 16 months, your money will be held uninvested (without liability to the transfer agent for loss of income or appreciation pending receipt of proper instructions) until investment instructions are received, but for no more than three business days. Your investment will be made at the net asset value (plus any applicable sales charge in the case of Class A shares) next determined after investment instructions are received and accepted by the transfer agent. If investment instructions are not received, your money will be invested in Class A shares of American Funds Money Market Fund on the third business day after receipt of your investment.

Purchase of Class A and C shares

You may generally open an account and purchase Class A and C shares by contacting any financial adviser (who may impose transaction charges in addition to those described in this prospectus) authorized to sell the fund's shares. You may purchase additional shares in various ways, including through your financial adviser and by mail, telephone, the Internet and bank wire.

Purchase of Class F shares

You may generally open an account and purchase Class F shares only through fee-based programs of investment dealers that have special agreements with the fund's distributor and through certain registered investment advisers. These dealers and advisers typically charge ongoing fees for services they provide. Intermediary fees normally range from .75% to 1.50% of assets annually, depending on the services offered.

Purchase of Class 529 shares

Class 529 shares may be purchased only through an account established with a 529 college savings plan managed by the American Funds organization. You may open this type of account and purchase Class 529 shares by contacting any financial adviser (who may impose transaction charges in addition to those described in this prospectus) authorized to sell such an account. You may purchase additional shares in various ways, including through your financial adviser and by mail, telephone, the Internet and bank wire.

Class 529-E shares may be purchased only by employees participating through an eligible employer plan.

Accounts holding Class 529 shares are subject to a \$10 account setup fee and an annual \$10 account maintenance fee.

Exchange

Generally, you may exchange your shares into shares of the same class of other American Funds without a sales charge. Class A, C or F-1 shares may generally be exchanged into the corresponding 529 share class without a sales charge. Class B shares may not be exchanged into Class 529-B shares. **Exchanges from Class A, C or F-1 shares to the corresponding 529 share class, particularly in the case of Uniform Gifts to Minors Act or Uniform Transfers to Minors Act custodial accounts, may result in significant legal and tax consequences as described in the applicable program description. Please consult your financial adviser before making such an exchange.**

Exchanges of shares from American Funds Money Market Fund initially purchased without a sales charge generally will be subject to the appropriate sales charge. For purposes of computing the contingent deferred sales charge on Class B and C shares, the length of time you have owned your shares will be measured from the date of original purchase and will not be affected by any permitted exchange.

Exchanges have the same tax consequences as ordinary sales and purchases. For example, to the extent you exchange shares held in a taxable account that are worth more now than what you paid for them, the gain will be subject to taxation. See "Transactions by telephone, fax or the Internet" in this prospectus for information regarding electronic exchanges.

Frequent trading of fund shares

The fund and American Funds Distributors reserve the right to reject any purchase order for any reason. The fund is not designed to serve as a vehicle for frequent trading. Frequent trading of fund shares may lead to increased costs to the fund and less efficient management of the fund's portfolio, potentially resulting in dilution of the value of the shares held by long-term shareholders. Accordingly, purchases, including those that are part of exchange activity that the fund or American Funds Distributors has determined could involve actual or potential harm to the fund, may be rejected.

The fund, through its transfer agent, American Funds Service Company, maintains surveillance procedures that are designed to detect frequent trading in fund shares. Under these procedures, various analytics are used to evaluate factors that may be indicative of frequent trading. For example, transactions in fund shares that exceed certain monetary thresholds may be scrutinized. American Funds Service Company also may review transactions that occur close in time to other transactions in the same account or in multiple accounts under common ownership or influence. Trading activity that is identified through these procedures or as a result of any other information available to the fund will be evaluated to determine whether such activity might constitute frequent trading. These procedures may be modified from time to time as appropriate to improve the detection of frequent trading, to facilitate monitoring for frequent trading in particular retirement plans or other accounts, and to comply with applicable laws.

In addition to the fund's broad ability to restrict potentially harmful trading as described above, the fund's board of directors has adopted a "purchase blocking policy" under which any shareholder redeeming shares having a value of \$5,000 or more from the fund will be precluded from investing in the fund for 30 calendar days after the redemption transaction. This policy also applies to redemptions and purchases that are part of exchange transactions. Under the fund's purchase blocking policy, certain purchases will not be prevented and certain redemptions will not trigger a purchase block, such as systematic redemptions and purchases, where the entity maintaining the shareholder account is able to identify the transaction as a systematic redemption or purchase; purchases and redemptions of shares having a value of less than \$5,000; transactions in Class 529 shares; purchases and redemptions resulting from reallocations by American Funds Target Date Retirement Series[®]; retirement plan contributions, loans and distributions (including hardship withdrawals) identified as such on the retirement plan recordkeeper's system; and purchase transactions involving transfers of assets, rollovers, Roth IRA conversions and IRA recharacterizations, where the entity maintaining the shareholder account is able to identify the transaction as one of these types of transactions.

The fund reserves the right to waive the purchase blocking policy with respect to specific shareholder accounts in those instances where American Funds Service Company determines that its surveillance procedures are adequate to detect frequent trading in fund shares.

American Funds Service Company will work with certain intermediaries (such as investment dealers holding shareholder accounts in street name, retirement plan record-keepers, insurance company separate accounts and bank trust companies) to apply their own procedures, provided that American Funds Service Company believes the intermediary's procedures are reasonably designed to enforce the frequent trading policies of the fund. You should refer to disclosures provided by the intermediaries with which you have an account to determine the specific trading restrictions that apply to you.

If American Funds Service Company identifies any activity that may constitute frequent trading, it reserves the right to contact the intermediary and request that the intermediary either provide information regarding an account owner's transactions or restrict the account owner's trading. If American Funds Service Company is not satisfied that the intermediary has taken appropriate action, American Funds Service Company may terminate the intermediary's ability to transact in fund shares.

There is no guarantee that all instances of frequent trading in fund shares will be prevented.

Notwithstanding the fund's surveillance procedures and purchase blocking policy, all transactions in fund shares remain subject to the right of the fund and American Funds Distributors to restrict potentially abusive trading generally (including the types of transactions described above that will not be prevented or trigger a block under the purchase blocking policy). See the statement of additional information for more information about how American Funds Service Company may address other potentially abusive trading activity in the American Funds.

Purchase minimums and maximums

The purchase minimums described on the table on page 7 may be waived in certain cases. See the statement of additional information for details.

For accounts established with an automatic investment plan, the initial purchase minimum of \$250 may be waived if the purchases (including purchases through exchanges from another fund) made under the plan are sufficient to reach \$250 within five months of account establishment.

The effective purchase maximums for Class 529-A, 529-C, 529-E and 529-F-1 shares will reflect the maximum applicable contribution limits under state law. See the applicable program description for more information.

The purchase maximum for Class C shares is \$500,000 per transaction. In addition, if you have significant American Funds holdings, you may not be eligible to invest in Class C or 529-C shares. Specifically, you may not purchase Class C or 529-C shares if you are eligible to purchase Class A or 529-A shares at the \$1 million or more sales charge discount rate (that is, at net asset value). See "Sales charge reductions and waivers" in this prospectus and the statement of additional information for more information regarding sales charge discounts.

Valuing shares

The net asset value of each share class of the fund is the value of a single share. The fund calculates the net asset value each day the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading as of approximately 4 p.m. New York time, the normal close of regular trading. Assets are valued primarily on the basis of market quotations. However, the fund has adopted procedures for making "fair value" determinations if market quotations are not readily available or are not considered reliable. For example, if events occur between the close of markets outside the United States and the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange that, in the opinion of the investment adviser, materially affect the value of any of the fund's securities that principally trade in those international markets, those securities will be valued in accordance with fair value procedures. Use of these procedures is intended to result in more appropriate net asset values. In addition, such use will reduce, if not eliminate, potential arbitrage opportunities otherwise available to short-term investors.

Because the fund may hold securities that are primarily listed on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or days when the fund does not price its shares, the values of securities held in the fund may change on days when you will not be able to purchase or redeem fund shares.

Your shares will be purchased at the net asset value (plus any applicable sales charge in the case of Class A shares) or sold at the net asset value next determined after American Funds Service Company receives your request, provided that your request contains all information and legal documentation necessary to process the transaction. A contingent deferred sales charge may apply at the time you sell certain Class A, B and C shares.

Moving between share classes and accounts

Please see the statement of additional information for details and limitations on moving investments in certain share classes to different share classes and on moving investments held in certain accounts to different accounts.

Sales charges

Class A shares

The initial sales charge you pay each time you buy Class A shares differs depending upon the amount you invest and may be reduced or eliminated for larger purchases as indicated below. Any applicable sales charge will be deducted directly from your investment.

Investment	Sales charge as a percentage of:		Dealer commission as a percentage of offering price
	Offering price	Net amount invested	
Less than \$25,000	5.75%	6.10%	5.00%
\$25,000 but less than \$50,000	5.00	5.26	4.25
\$50,000 but less than \$100,000	4.50	4.71	3.75
\$100,000 but less than \$250,000	3.50	3.63	2.75
\$250,000 but less than \$500,000	2.50	2.56	2.00
\$500,000 but less than \$750,000	2.00	2.04	1.60
\$750,000 but less than \$1 million	1.50	1.52	1.20
\$1 million or more and certain other investments described below	none	none	see below

The sales charge, expressed as a percentage of the offering price or the net amount invested, may be higher or lower than the percentages described in the table above due to rounding. This is because the dollar amount of the sales charge is determined by subtracting the net asset value of the shares purchased from the offering price, which is calculated to two decimal places using standard rounding criteria. The impact of rounding will vary with the size of the investment and the net asset value of the shares. Similarly, any contingent deferred sales charge paid by you on investments in Class A shares may be higher or lower than the 1% charge described below due to rounding.

Except as provided below, investments in Class A shares of \$1 million or more may be subject to a 1% contingent deferred sales charge if the shares are sold within one year of purchase. The contingent deferred sales charge is based on the original purchase cost or the current market value of the shares being sold, whichever is less.

Class A share purchases not subject to sales charges

The following investments are not subject to any initial or contingent deferred sales charge if American Funds Service Company is properly notified of the nature of the investment:

- investments in Class A shares made by endowments or foundations with \$50 million or more in assets;
- investments made by accounts that are part of certain qualified fee-based programs and that purchased Class A shares before the discontinuation of your investment dealer's load-waived Class A share program with the American Funds; and
- certain rollover investments from retirement plans to IRAs (see "Rollovers from retirement plans to IRAs" in this prospectus for more information).

The distributor may pay dealers up to 1% on investments made in Class A shares with no initial sales charge. The fund may reimburse the distributor for these payments through its plans of distribution (see "Plans of distribution" in this prospectus).

Transfers from certain 529 plans to plans managed by the American Funds organization will be made with no sales charge. No commission will be paid to the dealer on such a transfer. Please see the statement of additional information for more information.

Certain other investors may qualify to purchase shares without a sales charge, such as employees of investment dealers and registered investment advisers authorized to sell American Funds and employees of The Capital Group Companies, Inc. Please see the statement of additional information for more information.

Employer-sponsored retirement plans

Many employer-sponsored retirement plans are eligible to purchase Class R shares. Such eligible plans and Class R shares are described in more detail in the fund's retirement plan prospectus.

Employer-sponsored retirement plans that are eligible to purchase Class R shares may instead purchase Class A shares and pay the applicable Class A sales charge, provided their recordkeepers can properly apply a sales charge on plan investments. These plans are not eligible to make initial purchases of \$1 million or more in Class A shares and thereby invest in Class A shares without a sales charge, nor are they eligible to establish a statement of intention that qualifies them to purchase Class A shares without a sales charge. More information about statements of intention can be found under "Sales charge reductions and waivers" in this prospectus. Plans investing in Class A shares with a sales charge may purchase additional Class A shares in accordance with the sales charge table in this prospectus.

Employer-sponsored retirement plans that invested in Class A shares without any sales charge before April 1, 2004, and that continue to meet the eligibility requirements in effect as of that date for purchasing Class A shares at net asset value, may continue to purchase Class A shares without any initial or contingent deferred sales charge.

A 403(b) plan may not invest in Class A or C shares unless it was invested in Class A or C shares prior to January 1, 2009.

Class B and C shares

Class C shares are sold without any initial sales charge. American Funds Distributors pays 1% of the amount invested to dealers who sell Class C shares.

For Class B shares, a contingent deferred sales charge may be applied to shares you sell within six years of purchase, as shown in the table below. The contingent deferred sales charge is eliminated six years after purchase.

Contingent deferred sales charge on Class B shares

Year of redemption:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
Contingent deferred sales charge:	5%	4%	4%	3%	2%	1%	0%

For Class C shares, a contingent deferred sales charge of 1% applies if shares are sold within one year of purchase. The contingent deferred sales charge is eliminated one year after purchase.

Any contingent deferred sales charge paid by you on redemptions of Class B or C shares, expressed as a percentage of the applicable redemption amount, may be higher or lower than the percentages described above due to rounding.

Shares acquired through reinvestment of dividends or capital gain distributions are not subject to a contingent deferred sales charge. In addition, the contingent deferred sales charge may be waived in certain circumstances. See "Contingent deferred sales charge waivers" in this prospectus. The contingent deferred sales charge is based on the original purchase cost or the current market value of the shares being sold, whichever is less. For purposes of determining the contingent deferred sales charge, if you sell only some of your shares, shares that are not subject to any contingent deferred sales charge will be sold first, followed by shares that you have owned the longest.

See "Plans of distribution" in this prospectus for ongoing compensation paid to your dealer or financial adviser for all share classes.

Automatic conversion of Class B and C shares

Class B shares automatically convert to Class A shares in the month of the eight-year anniversary of the purchase date. Class C shares automatically convert to Class F-1 shares in the month of the 10-year anniversary of the purchase date; however, Class 529-C shares will not convert to Class 529-F-1 shares. The Internal Revenue Service currently takes the position that these automatic conversions are not taxable. Should its position change, the automatic conversion feature may be suspended. If this happens, you would have the option of converting your Class B, 529-B or C shares to the respective share classes at the anniversary dates described above. This exchange would be based on the relative net asset values of the two classes in question, without the imposition of a sales charge or fee, but you might face certain tax consequences as a result.

Class 529-E and Class F shares

Class 529-E and Class F shares are sold without any initial or contingent deferred sales charge.

Sales charge reductions and waivers

To receive a reduction in your Class A initial sales charge, you must let your financial adviser or American Funds Service Company know at the time you purchase shares that you qualify for such a reduction. If you do not let your adviser or American Funds Service Company know that you are eligible for a reduction, you may not receive a sales charge discount to which you are otherwise entitled. In order to determine your eligibility to receive a sales charge discount, it may be necessary for you to provide your adviser or American Funds Service Company with information and records (including account statements) of all relevant accounts invested in the American Funds.

In addition to the information in this prospectus, you may obtain more information about share classes, sales charges and sales charge reductions and waivers through a link on the home page of the American Funds website at americanfunds.com, from the statement of additional information or from your financial adviser.

Reducing your Class A initial sales charge

Consistent with the policies described in this prospectus, you and your "immediate family" (your spouse — or equivalent if recognized under local law — and your children under the age of 21) may combine all of your American Funds investments to reduce your Class A sales charge. Certain investments in the American Funds Target Date Retirement Series may also be combined for this purpose. Please see the American Funds Target Date Retirement Series prospectus for further information. However, for this purpose, investments representing direct purchases of American Funds Money Market Fund are excluded. Following are different ways that you may qualify for a reduced Class A sales charge:

Aggregating accounts

To receive a reduced Class A sales charge, investments made by you and your immediate family (see above) may be aggregated if made for your own account(s) and/or certain other accounts, such as:

- trust accounts established by the above individuals (please see the statement of additional information for details regarding aggregation of trust accounts where the person(s) who established the trust is/are deceased);
- solely controlled business accounts; and
- single-participant retirement plans.

Concurrent purchases

You may combine simultaneous purchases (including, upon your request, purchases for gifts) of any class of shares of two or more American Funds (excluding American Funds Money Market Fund) to qualify for a reduced Class A sales charge.

Rights of accumulation

You may take into account your accumulated holdings in all share classes of the American Funds (excluding American Funds Money Market Fund) to determine the initial sales charge you pay on each purchase of Class A shares. Subject to your investment dealer's capabilities, your accumulated holdings will be calculated as the higher of (a) the current value of your existing holdings or (b) the amount you invested (including reinvested dividends and capital gains, but excluding capital appreciation) less any withdrawals. Please see the statement of additional information for further details. You should retain any records necessary to substantiate the historical amounts you have invested.

If you make a gift of shares, upon your request you may purchase the shares at the sales charge discount allowed under rights of accumulation of all of your American Funds accounts.

Statement of intention

You may reduce your Class A sales charge by establishing a statement of intention. A statement of intention allows you to combine all purchases of all share classes of the American Funds (excluding American Funds Money Market Fund) you intend to make over a 13-month period to determine the applicable sales charge; however, purchases made under a right of reinvestment, appreciation of your holdings, and reinvested dividends and capital gains do not count as purchases made during the statement period. The market value of your existing holdings eligible to be aggregated as of the day immediately before the start of the statement period may be credited toward satisfying the statement. A portion of your account may be held in escrow to cover additional Class A sales charges that may be due if your total purchases over the statement period do not qualify you for the applicable sales charge reduction. Employer-sponsored retirement plans may be restricted from establishing statements of intention. See "Sales charges" in this prospectus for more information.

Right of reinvestment

If you notify American Funds Service Company, you may reinvest proceeds from a redemption, dividend payment or capital gain distribution without a sales charge in the same fund or other American Funds, provided that the reinvestment occurs within 90 days after the date of the redemption or distribution and is made into the same account from which you redeemed the shares or received the distribution. If the account has been closed, you may reinvest without a sales charge if the new receiving account has the same registration as the closed account.

Proceeds from a Class B share redemption for which a contingent deferred sales charge was paid will be reinvested in Class A shares without any initial sales charge. If you redeem Class B shares without paying a contingent deferred sales charge, you may reinvest the proceeds in Class B shares or purchase Class A shares; if you purchase Class A shares, you are responsible for paying any applicable Class A sales charges. Proceeds from any other type of redemption and all dividend payments and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the same share class from which the original redemption or distribution was made. Any contingent deferred sales charge on Class A or C shares will be credited to your account. Redemption proceeds of Class A shares representing direct purchases in American Funds Money Market Fund that are reinvested in other American Funds will be subject to a sales charge.

Proceeds will be reinvested at the next calculated net asset value after your request is received by American Funds Service Company, provided that your request contains all information and legal documentation necessary to process the transaction. For purposes of this "right of reinvestment policy," automatic transactions (including, for example, automatic purchases, withdrawals and payroll deductions) and ongoing retirement plan contributions are not eligible for investment without a sales charge. See the statement of additional information for further information on the operation of this policy with respect to required minimum distributions. You may not reinvest proceeds in the American Funds as described in this paragraph if such proceeds are subject to a purchase block as described under "Frequent trading of fund shares" in this prospectus. This paragraph does not apply to certain rollover investments as described under "Rollovers from retirement plans to IRAs" in this prospectus.

Contingent deferred sales charge waivers

The contingent deferred sales charge on Class A, B and C shares may be waived in the following cases:

- permitted exchanges of shares, except if shares acquired by exchange are then redeemed within the period during which a contingent deferred sales charge would apply to the initial shares purchased;
- tax-free returns of excess contributions to IRAs;
- redemptions due to death or postpurchase disability of the shareholder (this generally excludes accounts registered in the names of trusts and other entities);
- for 529 share classes only, redemptions due to a beneficiary's death, postpurchase disability or receipt of a scholarship (to the extent of the scholarship award);
- redemptions due to the complete termination of a trust upon the death of the trustor/grantor or beneficiary, but only if such termination is specifically provided for in the trust document; and
- the following types of transactions, if together they do not exceed 12% of the value of an account annually (see the statement of additional information for more information about waivers regarding these types of transactions):
 - redemptions due to receiving required minimum distributions from retirement accounts upon reaching age 70½ (required minimum distributions that continue to be taken by the beneficiary(ies) after the account owner is deceased also qualify for a waiver); and
 - if you have established an automatic withdrawal plan, redemptions through such a plan (including any dividends and/or capital gain distributions taken in cash).

To have your Class A, B or C contingent deferred sales charge waived, you must inform your adviser or American Funds Service Company at the time you redeem shares that you qualify for such a waiver.

Rollovers from retirement plans to IRAs

Assets from retirement plans may be invested in Class A, C or F shares through an IRA rollover, subject to the other provisions of this prospectus. Rollovers invested in Class A shares from retirement plans will be subject to applicable sales charges. The following rollovers to Class A shares will be made without a sales charge:

- rollovers to IRAs from 403(b) plans with Capital Bank and Trust Company as custodian; and
- rollovers to IRAs that are attributable to American Funds investments, if they meet the following requirements:
 - the assets being rolled over were invested in American Funds at the time of distribution; and
 - the rolled over assets are contributed to an American Funds IRA with Capital Bank and Trust Company as custodian.

IRA rollover assets that roll over without a sales charge as described above will not be subject to a contingent deferred sales charge, and investment dealers will be compensated solely with an annual service fee that begins to accrue immediately. IRA rollover assets invested in Class A shares that are not attributable to American Funds investments, as well as future contributions to the IRA, will be subject to sales charges and the terms and conditions generally applicable to Class A share investments as described in this prospectus and the statement of additional information.

Plans of distribution

The fund has plans of distribution or "12b-1 plans" for certain share classes, under which it may finance activities primarily intended to sell shares, provided that the categories of expenses are approved in advance by the fund's board of directors. The plans provide for payments, based on annualized percentages of average daily net assets, of up to .25% for Class A shares; up to .50% for Class 529-A shares; up to 1.00% for Class B and 529-B shares; up to 1.00% for Class C and 529-C shares; up to .75% for Class 529-E shares; and up to .50% for Class F-1 and 529-F-1 shares. For all share classes indicated above, up to .25% of these expenses may be used to pay service fees to qualified dealers for providing certain shareholder services. The amount remaining for each share class may be used for distribution expenses.

The 12b-1 fees paid by the fund, as a percentage of average net assets for the previous fiscal year, are indicated in the Annual Fund Operating Expenses table under "Fees and expenses of the fund" in this prospectus. Since these fees are paid out of the fund's assets or income on an ongoing basis, over time they will increase the cost and reduce the return of your investment. The higher fees for Class B and C shares may cost you more over time than paying the initial sales charge for Class A shares.

Other compensation to dealers

American Funds Distributors, at its expense, currently provides additional compensation to investment dealers. These payments may be made, at the discretion of American Funds Distributors, to the top 100 dealers (or their affiliates) that have sold shares of the American Funds. The level of payments made to a qualifying firm in any given year will vary and in no case would exceed the sum of (a) .10% of the previous year's American Funds sales by that dealer and (b) .02% of American Funds assets attributable to that dealer. For calendar year 2008, aggregate payments made by American Funds Distributors to dealers were less than .02% of the average assets of the American Funds. Aggregate payments may also change from year to year. A number of factors will be considered in determining payments, including the qualifying dealer's sales, assets and redemption rates, and the quality of the dealer's relationship with American Funds Distributors. American Funds Distributors makes these payments to help defray the costs incurred by qualifying dealers in connection with efforts to educate financial advisers about the American Funds so that they can make recommendations and provide services that are suitable and meet shareholder needs. American Funds Distributors will, on an annual basis, determine the advisability of continuing these payments. American Funds Distributors may also pay expenses associated with meetings conducted by dealers outside the top 100 firms to facilitate educating financial advisers and shareholders about the American Funds. If investment advisers, distributors or other affiliates of mutual funds pay additional compensation or other incentives in differing amounts, dealer firms and their advisers may have financial incentives for recommending a particular mutual fund over other mutual funds. You should consult with your financial adviser and review carefully any disclosure by your financial adviser's firm as to compensation received.

How to sell shares

You may sell (redeem) shares in any of the following ways:

Through your dealer or financial adviser (certain charges may apply)

- Shares held for you in your dealer's name must be sold through the dealer.
- Class F shares must be sold through your dealer or financial adviser.

Writing to American Funds Service Company

- Requests must be signed by the registered shareholder(s).
- A signature guarantee is required if the redemption is:
 - more than \$75,000;
 - made payable to someone other than the registered shareholder(s); or
 - sent to an address other than the address of record or to an address of record that has been changed within the last 10 days.
- American Funds Service Company reserves the right to require signature guarantee(s) on any redemption.
- Additional documentation may be required for redemptions of shares held in corporate, partnership or fiduciary accounts.

Telephoning or faxing American Funds Service Company or using the Internet

- Redemptions by telephone, fax or the Internet (including American FundsLine® and americanfunds.com) are limited to \$75,000 per American Funds shareholder each day.
- Checks must be made payable to the registered shareholder.
- Checks must be mailed to an address of record that has been used with the account for at least 10 days.

If you recently purchased shares and subsequently request a redemption of those shares, you will receive proceeds from the redemption once a sufficient period of time has passed to reasonably ensure that checks or drafts (including certified or cashier's checks) for the shares purchased have cleared (normally 10 business days).

Transactions by telephone, fax or the Internet

Generally, you are automatically eligible to redeem or exchange shares by telephone, fax or the Internet, unless you notify us in writing that you do not want any or all of these services. You may reinstate these services at any time.

Unless you decide not to have telephone, fax or Internet services on your account(s), you agree to hold the fund, American Funds Service Company, any of its affiliates or mutual funds managed by such affiliates, and each of their respective directors, trustees, officers, employees and agents harmless from any losses, expenses, costs or liabilities (including attorney fees) that may be incurred in connection with the exercise of these privileges, provided that American Funds Service Company employs reasonable procedures to confirm that the instructions received from any person with appropriate account information are genuine. If reasonable procedures are not employed, American Funds Service Company and/or the fund may be liable for losses due to unauthorized or fraudulent instructions.

Distributions and taxes

Dividends and distributions

The fund intends to distribute dividends to you, usually in December.

Capital gains, if any, are usually distributed in December. When a dividend or capital gain is distributed, the net asset value per share is reduced by the amount of the payment.

You may elect to reinvest dividends and/or capital gain distributions to purchase additional shares of this fund or other American Funds, or you may elect to receive them in cash. Most shareholders do not elect to take capital gain distributions in cash because these distributions reduce principal value. Dividends and capital gain distributions for 529 share classes will be automatically reinvested.

Taxes on dividends and distributions

Dividends and capital gain distributions you receive from the fund are subject to federal income taxes and may also be subject to state and local taxes, unless you are exempt from taxation.

For federal tax purposes, dividends and distributions of short-term capital gains are taxable as ordinary income. Some or all of your dividends may be eligible for a reduced tax rate if you meet a holding period requirement. The fund's distributions of net long-term capital gains are taxable as long-term capital gains. Any dividends or capital gain distributions you receive from the fund will normally be taxable to you when made, regardless of whether you reinvest dividends or capital gain distributions or receive them in cash.

Taxes on transactions

Your redemptions, including exchanges, may result in a capital gain or loss for federal tax purposes. A capital gain or loss on your investment is the difference between the cost of your shares, including any sales charges, and the amount you receive when you sell them.

Shareholder fees

Fees borne directly by the fund normally have the effect of reducing a shareholder's taxable income on distributions. By contrast, fees paid directly to advisers by a fund shareholder for ongoing advice are deductible for income tax purposes only to the extent that they (combined with certain other qualifying expenses) exceed 2% of such shareholder's adjusted gross income.

Please see your tax adviser for more information. Holders of Class 529 shares should refer to the applicable program description for more information regarding the tax consequences of selling Class 529 shares.

Financial highlights

The Financial Highlights table is intended to help you understand the fund's results for the past five fiscal years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share of a particular class. The total returns in the table represent the rate that an investor would have earned or lost on an investment in the fund (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and capital gain distributions). Where indicated, figures in the table reflect the impact, if any, of certain reimbursements/waivers from Capital Research and Management Company. For more information about these reimbursements/waivers, see the fund's statement of additional information and annual report. The information in the Financial Highlights table has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the statement of additional information, which is available upon request.

	(Loss) income from investment operations ¹				Dividends and distributions				Ratio of expenses to average net assets before reinbursements/waivers ²	Ratio of net income (loss) to average net assets after reimbursements/waivers ³		
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Net investment income (loss)	Net (losses) gains on securities realized and unrealized	Total from investment operations	Dividends (from net investment income)	Distributions (from capital gains)	Total dividends and distributions	Net asset value, end of period			Total return ^{2,3} (in millions)	
Class A:												
Year ended 8/31/2009	\$30.61	\$.22	\$(5.67)	\$(5.45)	\$(.23)	\$ —	\$ (.23)	\$24.93	(17.59)%	\$61.587	.75%	1.00%
Year ended 8/31/2008	35.77	.36	(3.10)	(2.74)	(.36)	(2.06)	(2.42)	30.61	(8.24)	81,529	.62	1.09
Year ended 8/31/2007	31.93	.32	4.89	5.21	(.27)	(1.10)	(1.37)	35.77	16.69	90,125	.64	.94
Year ended 8/31/2006	29.51	.28	2.56	2.84	(.19)	(.23)	(.42)	31.93	9.66	78,854	.65	.89
Year ended 8/31/2005	24.43	.21	4.96	5.17	(.09)	—	(.09)	29.51	21.20	67,793	.68	.76
Class B:												
Year ended 8/31/2009	29.44	.06	(5.41)	(5.35)	(.01)	—	(.01)	24.08	(18.18)	4,063	1.50	.27
Year ended 8/31/2008	34.48	.11	(2.99)	(2.88)	(.10)	(2.06)	(2.16)	29.44	(8.91)	6,367	1.39	.34
Year ended 8/31/2007	30.83	.06	4.73	4.79	(.04)	(1.10)	(1.14)	34.48	15.82	7,596	1.39	.20
Year ended 8/31/2006	28.55	.04	2.47	2.51	—	(.23)	(.23)	30.83	8.80	6,839	1.40	.14
Year ended 8/31/2005	23.73	— ⁴	4.82	4.82	—	—	—	28.55	20.31	6,098	1.43	.01

	(Loss) income from investment operations ¹				Dividends and distributions				Net asset value, end of period	Total return ^{2,3}	Net assets, end of period (in millions)	Ratio of expenses to average net assets before re-imbursements/waivers	Ratio of expenses to average net assets after re-imbursements/waivers ³	Ratio of net income (loss) to average net assets ³
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Net investment income (loss)	Net (losses) gains on securities (both realized and unrealized)	Total from investment operations	Dividends (from net investment income)	Distributions (from capital gains)	Total dividends and distributions	Net asset value, end of period	Total return ^{2,3}	Net assets, end of period (in millions)	Ratio of expenses to average net assets before re-imbursements/waivers	Ratio of expenses to average net assets after re-imbursements/waivers ³	Ratio of net income (loss) to average net assets ³	
Class C:														
Year ended 8/31/2009	\$29.30	\$.06	\$ (5.39)	\$ (5.33)	\$(.01)	\$ —	\$ (.01)	\$23.96	(18.18)%	\$ 7,502	1.50%	1.49%	.26%	
Year ended 8/31/2008	34.34	.09	(2.97)	(2.88)	(.10)	(2.06)	(2.16)	29.30	(8.95)	10,209	1.44	1.41	.29	
Year ended 8/31/2007	30.73	.05	4.70	4.75	(.04)	(1.10)	(1.14)	34.34	15.74	11,091	1.45	1.42	.14	
Year ended 8/31/2006	28.47	.02	2.47	2.49	—	(.23)	(.23)	30.73	8.75	9,036	1.47	1.44	.07	
Year ended 8/31/2005	23.68	.01	4.80	4.79	—	—	—	28.47	20.23	7,054	1.48	1.46	(.05)	
Class F-1:														
Year ended 8/31/2009	30.41	.24	(5.63)	(5.39)	(.24)	—	(.24)	24.78	(17.52)	16,531	.69	.68	1.08	
Year ended 8/31/2008	35.56	.36	(3.08)	(2.72)	(.37)	(2.06)	(2.43)	30.41	(8.23)	25,528	.63	.61	1.09	
Year ended 8/31/2007	31.76	.32	4.87	5.19	(.29)	(1.10)	(1.39)	35.56	16.71	25,404	.63	.61	.95	
Year ended 8/31/2006	29.37	.28	2.54	2.82	(.20)	(.23)	(.43)	31.76	9.62	17,613	.64	.61	.91	
Year ended 8/31/2005	24.33	.20	4.94	5.14	(.10)	—	(.10)	29.37	21.18	12,122	.70	.68	.73	
Class F-2:														
Year ended 8/31/2009	30.61	.26	(5.63)	(5.37)	(.27)	—	(.27)	24.97	(17.31)	3,247	.46	.46	1.19	
Period from 8/1/2008 to 8/31/2008 ⁵	30.43	.03	.15	.18	—	—	—	30.61	.59	114	.04	.03	.09	
Class 529-A:														
Year ended 8/31/2009	30.47	.22	(5.64)	(5.42)	(.24)	—	(.24)	24.81	(17.60)	2,543	.77	.76	.99	
Year ended 8/31/2008	35.62	.34	(3.08)	(2.74)	(.35)	(2.06)	(2.41)	30.47	(8.27)	2,859	.69	.66	1.03	
Year ended 8/31/2007	31.81	.31	4.87	5.18	(.27)	(1.10)	(1.37)	35.62	16.66	2,725	.69	.66	.90	
Year ended 8/31/2006	29.42	.27	2.54	2.81	(.19)	(.23)	(.42)	31.81	9.57	1,968	.68	.66	.86	
Year ended 8/31/2005	24.38	.19	4.95	5.14	(.10)	—	(.10)	29.42	21.13	1,386	.73	.71	.69	
Class 529-B:														
Year ended 8/31/2009	29.56	.04	(5.45)	(5.41)	(.01)	—	(.01)	24.14	(18.28)	416	1.58	1.57	.17	
Year ended 8/31/2008	34.62	.07	(2.99)	(2.92)	(.08)	(2.06)	(2.14)	29.56	(9.00)	514	1.50	1.48	.23	
Year ended 8/31/2007	30.97	.03	4.74	4.77	(.02)	(1.10)	(1.12)	34.62	15.69	534	1.51	1.48	.08	
Year ended 8/31/2006	28.71	.01	2.48	2.49	—	(.23)	(.23)	30.97	8.68	424	1.52	1.50	.02	
Year ended 8/31/2005	23.91	(.04)	4.84	4.80	—	—	—	28.71	20.08	335	1.59	1.57	(.16)	

(The Financial Highlights table continues on the following page.)

	(Loss) income from investment operations ¹				Dividends and distributions				Ratio of expenses to average net assets before re-imbursements/waivers	Ratio of expenses to average net assets after re-imbursements/waivers ³		
	Net asset value, beginning of period	Net investment income (loss)	Net (losses) gains on securities realized and unrealized	Total from investment operations	Dividends (from net investment income)	Distributions (from capital gains)	Total dividends and distributions	Net asset value, end of period			Total return ^{2,3}	Net assets, end of period (in millions)
Class 529-C:												
Year ended 8/31/2009	\$29.55	\$.04	\$(5.44)	\$(5.40)	\$(.02)	\$ —	\$ (.02)	\$24.13	(18.25)%	\$ 767	1.58%	1.57%
Year ended 8/31/2008	34.62	.07	(2.99)	(2.92)	(.09)	(2.06)	(2.15)	29.55	(8.99)	881	1.50	1.47
Year ended 8/31/2007	30.99	.03	4.74	4.77	(.04)	(1.10)	(1.14)	34.62	15.66	849	1.50	1.48
Year ended 8/31/2006	28.72	.01	2.49	2.50	—	(.23)	(.23)	30.99	8.71	619	1.52	1.49
Year ended 8/31/2005	23.91	(.04)	4.85	4.81	—	—	—	28.72	20.12	447	1.58	1.56
Class 529-E:												
Year ended 8/31/2009	30.21	.15	(5.57)	(5.42)	(.16)	—	(.16)	24.63	(17.82)	133	1.07	1.06
Year ended 8/31/2008	35.34	.24	(3.06)	(2.82)	(.25)	(2.06)	(2.31)	30.21	(8.55)	147	.99	.97
Year ended 8/31/2007	31.58	.20	4.84	5.04	(.18)	(1.10)	(1.28)	35.34	16.29	143	.99	.97
Year ended 8/31/2006	29.23	.17	2.52	2.69	(.11)	(.23)	(.34)	31.58	9.21	107	1.00	.97
Year ended 8/31/2005	24.22	.10	4.92	5.02	(.01)	—	(.01)	29.23	20.73	76	1.06	1.04
Class 529-F-1:												
Year ended 8/31/2009	30.46	.26	(5.64)	(5.38)	(.29)	—	(.29)	24.79	(17.41)	79	.57	.56
Year ended 8/31/2008	35.61	.41	(3.08)	(2.67)	(.42)	(2.06)	(2.48)	30.46	(8.09)	85	.49	.47
Year ended 8/31/2007	31.80	.37	4.87	5.24	(.33)	(1.10)	(1.43)	35.61	16.86	81	.49	.47
Year ended 8/31/2006	29.38	.33	2.53	2.86	(.21)	(.23)	(.44)	31.80	9.79	52	.50	.47
Year ended 8/31/2005	24.34	.19	4.94	5.13	(.09)	—	(.09)	29.38	21.12	30	.72	.70
		2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	Year ended August 31					
Portfolio turnover rate for all classes of shares		38%	32%	26%	22%	20%						

¹ Based on average shares outstanding.

² Total returns exclude any applicable sales charges, including contingent deferred sales charges.

³ This column reflects the impact, if any, of certain reimbursements/waivers from Capital Research and Management Company. During some of the periods shown, Capital Research and Management Company reduced fees for investment advisory services.

⁴ Amount less than \$.01.

⁵ Based on operations for the period shown and, accordingly, may not be representative of a full year.

Notes

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Notes

For shareholder servicesAmerican Funds Service Company
800/421-0180**For retirement plan services**

Call your employer or plan administrator

For 529 plansAmerican Funds Service Company
800/421-0180, ext. 529**For 24-hour information**American FundsLine
800/325-3590
americanfunds.com

Telephone calls you have with American Funds may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance, verification and recordkeeping purposes. By speaking to American Funds on the telephone, you consent to such monitoring and recording.

Annual/Semi-annual report to shareholders The shareholder reports contain additional information about the fund, including financial statements, investment results, portfolio holdings, a discussion of market conditions and the fund's investment strategies and the independent registered public accounting firm's report (in the annual report).

Program description The program description for the CollegeAmerica® 529 program contains additional information about the policies and services related to 529 plan accounts.

Statement of additional information (SAI) and codes of ethics The current SAI, as amended from time to time, contains more detailed information about the fund, including the fund's financial statements, and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. This means that the current SAI, for legal purposes, is part of this prospectus. The codes of ethics describe the personal investing policies adopted by the fund, the fund's investment adviser and its affiliated companies.

The codes of ethics and current SAI are on file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). These and other related materials about the fund are available for review or to be copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. (202/551-8090) or on the EDGAR database on the SEC's website at sec.gov or, after payment of a duplicating fee, via e-mail request to publicinfo@sec.gov or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section, 100 F Street, NE, Washington, D.C. 20549-1520. The codes of ethics, current SAI and shareholder reports are also available, free of charge, on our website, americanfunds.com.

E-delivery and household mailings Each year you are automatically sent an updated summary prospectus and annual and semi-annual reports for the fund. You may also occasionally receive proxy statements for the fund. In order to reduce the volume of mail you receive, when possible, only one copy of these documents will be sent to shareholders who are part of the same family and share the same household address. You may elect to receive these documents electronically in lieu of paper form by enrolling in e-delivery on our website, americanfunds.com.

If you would like to opt out of household-based mailings or receive a complimentary copy of the current SAI, codes of ethics, annual/semi-annual report to shareholders or applicable program description, please call American Funds Service Company at 800/421-0180 or write to the secretary of the fund at P.O. Box 7650, San Francisco, California 94120.

Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) Shareholders may obtain information about SIPC® on its website at sipc.org or by calling 202/371-8300.