



**Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund**

**BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**and**

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**June 30, 2024**

**(With Independent Auditor's Report Thereon)**



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT</b>	1 – 3
<b>MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (Unaudited)</b>	6 – 14
<b>BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position	16
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position	16
Notes to Financial Statements	17 – 28
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH <i>GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS</i></b>	29 – 30
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON OTHER INFORMATION</b>	32
<b>OTHER INFORMATION – SECURE CHOICE SPENDING ON OUTSIDE CONSULTING SERVICES (Unaudited)</b>	33



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board,  
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and  
Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC  
Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### Report on the Audit of the Basic Financial Statements

#### *Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying statement of fiduciary net position and statement of changes in fiduciary net position of the **Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund** (the Program Fund) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Program Fund's basic financial statements.

In our opinion, the basic financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the Program Fund as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in its fiduciary net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

#### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Basic Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Program Fund and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Emphasis of Matter – Contributions*

The Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Act (the Act) requires employers that do not offer a qualified retirement plan (as defined in the Act) to provide their eligible employees with the opportunity to save for retirement through payroll deductions which are remitted to the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program (the Program). We did not perform any procedures to determine that every employer required by the Act to offer the Program to employees is actually doing so. Additionally, we did not perform any audit procedures to obtain an understanding of the design and implementation of internal control over payroll processing, the calculation of employee contributions or the remittance of employee contributions at the participating employers. We did not test employer payroll records to determine that employee contributions were accurately calculated based on participating employee contribution elections, that amounts remitted to the Program Administrator were complete and accurate or that all eligible employees who had not opted out were participating.

Members of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board,  
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and  
Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC  
Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

## **Report on the Audit of the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)**

### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Basic Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the basic financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Program Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Basic Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not absolute assurance, and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with U.S. GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the basic financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we will:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the basic financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Program Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the basic financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Program Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Members of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board,  
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and  
Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC  
Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

**Report on the Audit of the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)**

***Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Basic Financial Statements (Continued)***

We are required to communicate to those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Required Supplementary Information***

U.S. GAAP requires that management’s discussion and analysis on pages 6 through 14 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board as it is considered to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with U.S. GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 6, 2024, on our consideration of the Program Fund’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Program Fund’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Little Rock, Arkansas  
September 6, 2024

*(This page left intentionally blank)*

**Management's Discussion and Analysis**  
**(Unaudited)**



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

(Unaudited)

June 30, 2024

This management's discussion and analysis is intended to provide readers an objective discussion of the basic financial statements of the **Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund** (the Program Fund) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023. This discussion and analysis, which is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), is intended to provide a highly summarized overview of the Program Fund's assets, liabilities, fiduciary net position and changes in fiduciary net position and should be read in conjunction with the Program Fund's financial statements and notes thereto, which are included on pages 16 through 28.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Act (820 ILCS 80/1 et seq.) (the Act) established a retirement savings program in the form of an automatic enrollment payroll deduction Roth Individual Retirement Account (Roth IRA) for the purpose of promoting greater retirement savings for Illinois employees in a convenient, low-cost and portable manner. This workplace retirement savings option, known as the Illinois Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program (the Program), is designed to help workers who do not have access to an employer-sponsored plan to save money for retirement. The Act requires eligible employers to provide their employees the opportunity to save through payroll deductions, unless the employer offers a qualified plan, as specified in the Act. Employees are automatically enrolled into the Program by their employer, unless the employees opt out of the Program within 30 days after notice of their enrollment has been provided to them. Employee participation in the Program is completely voluntary. The employers make no contributions to employee accounts. Subject to laws and regulations applicable to Roth IRA accounts, participating employees may make tax-free withdrawals of contributions and qualified distributions of earnings. In addition to participating in the Program through an eligible employer, any individual 18 years or older who is eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA is able to participate in the Program.

The Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board (the Board), also established under the Act, is an independent board responsible for oversight, administration and management of the Program. The Board consists of the State Treasurer (or his or her designee), who serves as chair; the State Comptroller (or his or her designee); the Director of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (or his or her designee); two public representatives with expertise in retirement savings plan administration or investments, or both, appointed by the Governor; a representative of participating employers, appointed by the Governor; and a representative of enrollees, appointed by the Governor. The Board intends that the Program be operated in such a manner as not to be considered a pension plan under Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Changes in or interpretations of laws and regulations could have a significant impact on the structure of the Program.





## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

(Unaudited)

June 30, 2024

Pursuant to the Act, contributions are held in the Program Fund, a trust for which the Board is trustee. The Act further specifies that amounts deposited in the Program Fund shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the State of Illinois (the State), and amounts on deposit in the Program Fund shall not be commingled with other State funds. The State has no claim to or against, or interest in, assets held in the Program Fund.

The Board has entered into a contract with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC (ACSR), pursuant to which ACSR serves as the Program Administrator. ACSR and its affiliates are responsible for day-to-day Program operations, such as establishing and maintaining accounts for participants, processing transactions as directed by employers and participants, issuing Program account statements and fulfilling Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reporting requirements.

#### Financial Highlights

The following highlight some of the Program Fund's key financial results:

- As of June 30, 2024, 25,481 employers had registered with the Program, and 9,832 had begun remitting payroll deductions to the Program Fund. As of June 30, 2023, 9,757 employers had registered with the Program, and 4,909 had begun remitting payroll deductions to the Program Fund.
- The number of active accounts increased from 125,390 at June 30, 2023, to 152,973 at June 30, 2024. The average active account balance increased from \$1,017 at June 30, 2023, to \$1,255 at June 30, 2024.
- At June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Program Fund's fiduciary net position totaled \$192.0 million and \$127.6 million, respectively. Fiduciary net position increased \$64.4 million, or 50.5%, from June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2024.
- During the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, contributions exceeded distributions by \$42.1 million and \$32.7 million, respectively. Contributions for the year ended June 30, 2024, totaled \$66.1 million, an increase of \$17.7 million, or 36.7%, over 2023 contributions. Distributions for the year ended June 30, 2024 totaled \$23.9 million, an increase of \$8.2 million, or 52.5%, over 2024 distributions.
- For the year ended June 30, 2024, the Program Fund experienced net investment income of \$23.0 million, resulting from a net increase in the fair value of investments of \$21.1 million and dividends totaling \$1.9 million. For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Program Fund experienced net investment income of \$12.8 million, resulting from a net increase in the fair value of investments of \$10.4 million and dividends totaling \$2.4 million.
- Administrative fees totaled \$710.0 thousand and \$671.6 thousand for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively. These fees, which are based on the Program Fund's fiduciary net position, are paid to ACSR and the State for performing oversight, administrative and investment duties.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

(Unaudited)

June 30, 2024

#### Overview of the Basic Financial Statements

The Program Fund's basic financial statements comprise the statement of fiduciary net position, the statement of changes in fiduciary net position and the related notes to the financial statements. The statement of fiduciary net position presents information on the Program Fund's assets and liabilities, with the difference between them representing net position held in trust for Program participants. The statement of changes in fiduciary net position shows how the Program Fund's fiduciary net position changed during the year. The notes to the financial statements provide additional explanatory information about the amounts presented in the financial statements. It is essential that readers of this report consider the information in the notes to obtain a full understanding of the Program Fund's financial statements.

The Program Fund's basic financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting and financial reporting standards for governmental entities set forth by the GASB. As required under generally accepted accounting principles applicable to fiduciary fund types, the Program Fund's basic financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Mutual funds are reported at fair value. All investment transactions are recorded on a trade-date basis. Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reported as "net increase (decrease) in the fair value of investments" on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Dividends and capital gain distributions are recorded on the ex-dividend date rather than when they are received. Contributions are recognized in the Program Fund when they are received, provided enrollment in the Program has been successfully completed, and distributions are recognized when the distribution request has been received and approved for payment. Administrative fees are recognized in the period when the related services are provided, regardless of when cash is paid.

#### Financial Analysis

##### Fiduciary Net Position

The following condensed statements of fiduciary net position provide a "snapshot" of the overall financial position of the Program Fund:

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Total assets	\$ 193,083,224	\$ 128,333,411
Total liabilities	1,103,606	776,853
Fiduciary net position	\$ 191,979,618	\$ 127,556,558



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (Unaudited) June 30, 2024

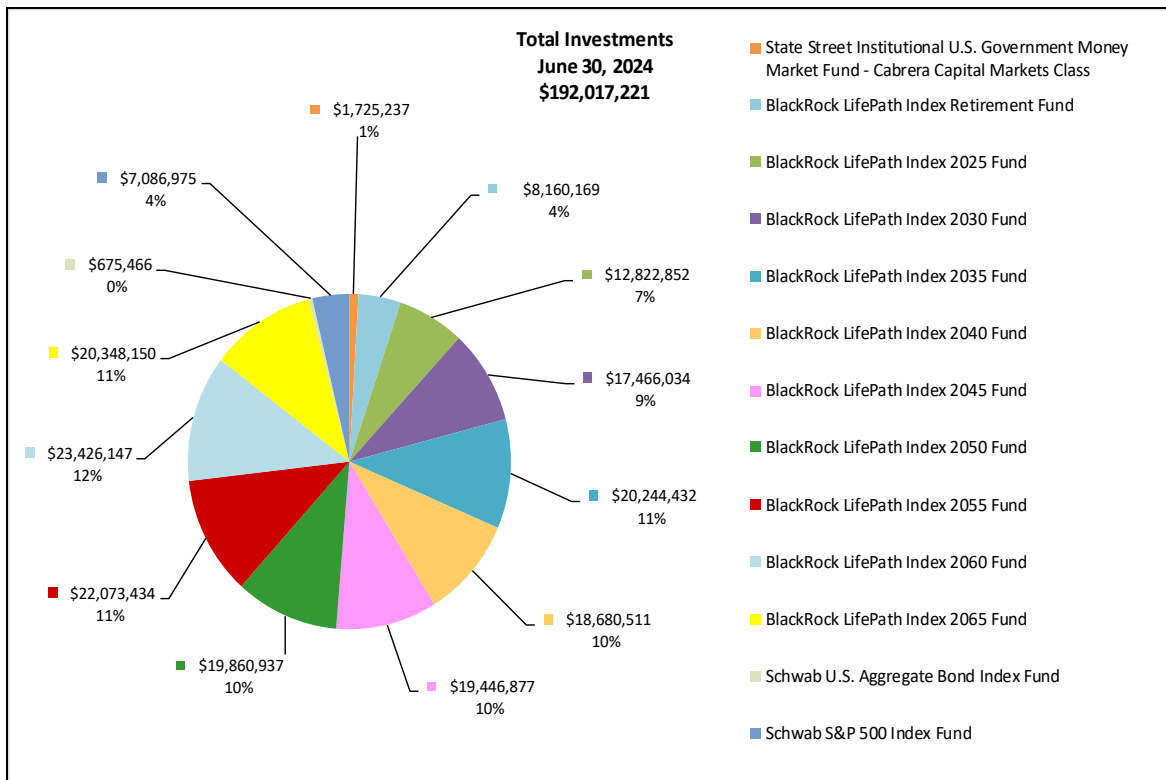
#### Financial Analysis (Continued)

#### Fiduciary Net Position (Continued)

Fiduciary net position represents the cumulative total of contributions from participants since the Program Fund’s inception, increased (decreased) by net investment income (loss), and decreased by distributions and administrative fees.

Investments, which totaled \$192.0 million and \$127.6 million at June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, represent over 99% of the Program Fund’s total assets. Participants are able to direct investment of their contributions into investment options, each of which is invested in a single underlying mutual fund. See the Investment Commentary on pages 11 through 14 for more information about the Program Fund’s investments.

At June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Program Fund’s assets are invested in the following mutual funds:



Note: Percentages are stated as a percent of total fair value. A percentage of 0% represents less than 0.5% of fair value.

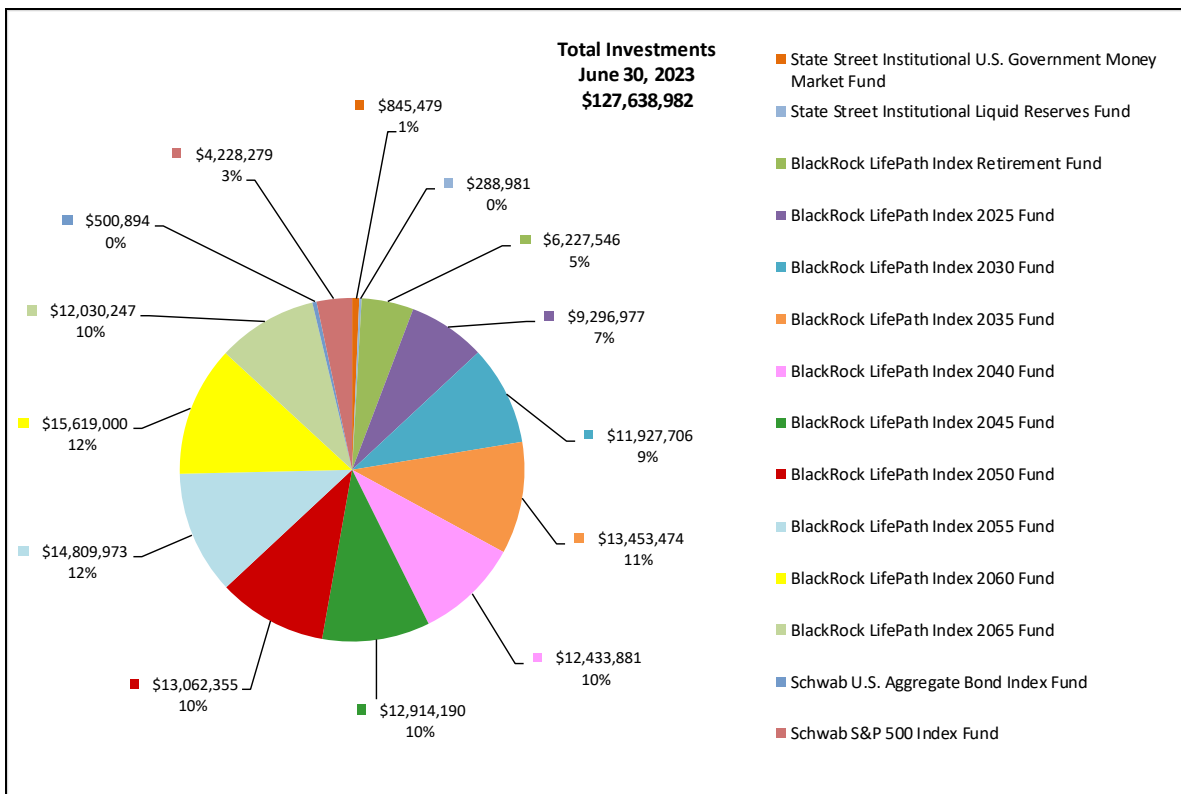


## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (Unaudited) June 30, 2024

#### Financial Analysis (Continued)

#### Fiduciary Net Position (Continued)



Note: Percentages are stated as a percent of total fair value. A percentage of 0% represents less than 0.5% of fair value.

Other assets, which totaled \$1.1 million and \$694.4 thousand at June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, comprise amounts to be invested or distributed on behalf of participants and receivables for proceeds from underlying mutual fund sales transactions. The Program Fund's liabilities, which totaled \$1.1 million and \$776.9 thousand at June 30, 2024 and 2023, respectively, comprise accrued administrative fees, payables for distributions approved but not yet paid and payables for underlying mutual fund purchase transactions.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (Unaudited) June 30, 2024

#### Financial Analysis *(Continued)*

##### Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

The following condensed statements of changes in fiduciary net position summarize how the Program Fund's net position changed during the years presented:

	<b>Year Ended June 30, 2024</b>	<b>Year Ended June 30, 2023</b>
Contributions	\$ 66,081,380	\$ 48,357,399
Net investment income	22,993,656	12,825,531
Distributions	(23,941,979)	(15,698,259)
Administrative fees	(709,997)	(671,617)
Net increase	64,423,060	44,813,054
Fiduciary net position, beginning of year	127,556,558	82,743,504
Fiduciary net position, end of year	\$ 191,979,618	\$ 127,556,558

#### Investment Commentary

The following section provides a brief description of the Program Fund's investments. More complete information can be found in the *Illinois Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program – Program Description* (the Program Description) or in each mutual fund's prospectus and annual report.

The Program offers participants a range of investment strategies from conservative to aggressive, designed to appeal to varying levels of risk tolerance, time horizons and return expectations. Each investment option invests in a single underlying mutual fund. Participants purchase units of investment options, not shares of the underlying mutual fund. These units are municipal fund securities.

SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (State Street), BlackRock Fund Advisors (BlackRock) and Charles Schwab Investment Management, Inc. (Schwab) manage the underlying mutual funds that comprise each investment option.

The Target Date Retirement Funds are a mix of equity, fixed income and capital preservation allocations managed by BlackRock that adjust automatically over time, becoming progressively more conservative as the target date of retirement approaches. Each Target Date Retirement Fund is fully invested in a corresponding fund in the BlackRock LifePath Index Target Date Suite.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

(Unaudited)

June 30, 2024

#### **Investment Commentary (*Continued*)**

The Capital Preservation Fund is the most conservative fund available to participants. This fund has one underlying fund, the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund – Cabrera Capital Markets Class, which is managed by State Street Global Advisors. Previously, this fund was invested in State Street Institutional Liquid Reserves Fund until it was liquidated on January 26, 2024.

The Conservative Fund is a fund with one underlying holding, the Schwab U.S. Aggregate Bond Index Fund, which is designed to track the performance of the Bloomberg Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. This underlying fund is managed by Schwab.

The Growth Fund is a fund with one underlying holding, the Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund, which is designed to track the performance of the S&P 500 Index. This underlying fund is managed by Schwab.

The 90 Day Holding Vehicle is not a stand-alone investment option, but is an administrative vehicle that seeks to preserve the value of employee contributions for the length of the Account Revocation Period. The 90 Day Holding Vehicle has one underlying fund, the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund – Cabrera Capital Markets Class, which is managed by State Street Global Advisors. Prior to January 26, 2024, the 90 Day Holding Vehicle was invested in the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund. The 90 Day Holding Vehicle is only available to those participants who have elected the default contribution elections, as described in more detail in the Program Description. The Account Revocation Period is the period of time starting from the date a Roth IRA account is established and the employee receives the Program Description, and ending the earlier of 90 days after the first contribution or after the close of business on the business day that an alternate contribution election is made. The Account Revocation Period must last a minimum of seven days from the date the Roth IRA is established and the employee receives the Program Description.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (Unaudited) June 30, 2024

#### Investment Commentary (*Continued*)

#### Investment Option Performance (*Continued*)

Returns for each of the investment options and the 90 Day Holding Vehicle for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 are listed in the following table:

Investment Option	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
90 Day Holding Vehicle <sup>(1)</sup>	4.83%	3.13%
Capital Preservation Fund	4.99%	3.41%
Conservative Fund	2.00%	(1.67%)
Growth Fund	23.89%	18.67%
Target Date Retirement Fund	7.89%	4.62%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2025	8.30%	5.64%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2030	10.31%	7.72%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2035	12.11%	9.72%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2040	13.98%	11.60%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2045	15.70%	13.27%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2050	16.93%	14.32%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2055	17.43%	14.63%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2060	17.52%	14.55%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2065	17.44%	14.75%
Target Date Retirement Fund 2070	17.48%	14.75%

<sup>(1)</sup> Not a stand-alone investment option. See description on page 12.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (Unaudited) June 30, 2024

#### Investment Commentary *(Continued)*

##### Underlying Fund Performance

Each underlying mutual fund is listed below with one-year annual returns for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 in the following table:

Underlying Mutual Fund	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund	3.09% <sup>(1)</sup>	3.74%
State Street Institutional Liquid Reserves Fund	3.11% <sup>(1)</sup>	3.96%
State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund – Cabrera Capital Markets Class	2.24% <sup>(1)</sup>	N/A
Schwab U.S. Aggregate Bond Index	2.53%	(1.01%)
Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund	24.52%	19.54%
BlackRock LifePath Index Retirement Fund	8.41%	5.37%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2025 Fund	8.81%	6.32%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2030 Fund	10.83%	8.46%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2035 Fund	12.67%	10.40%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2040 Fund	14.47%	12.34%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2045 Fund	16.22%	14.09%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2050 Fund	17.49%	15.07%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2055 Fund	17.96%	15.42%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2060 Fund	18.05%	15.36%
BlackRock LifePath Index 2065 Fund	17.99%	15.49%

<sup>(1)</sup> Effective January 26, 2024, the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund and the State Street Institutional Liquid Reserves Fund were liquidated and transferred to the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund – Cabrera Capital Markets Class. The 2024 returns for the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund and the State Street Institutional Liquid Reserves Fund are for the from period July 1, 2023 through January 25, 2024, and the 2024 return for the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund – Cabrera Capital Markets Class is for the period from January 26, 2024 through June 30, 2024.



## **Basic Financial Statements**



**Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund**

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**

June 30, 2024

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Investments	\$ 192,017,221
Cash and cash equivalents	1,060,038
Receivables from investments sold	5,965
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>193,083,224</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Payables for investments purchased	407,585
Distributions payable	649,588
Accrued administrative fees	46,433
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>1,103,606</u>
<b>FIDUCIARY NET POSITION</b>	<u><u>\$ 191,979,618</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION**

Year Ended June 30, 2024

<b>ADDITIONS</b>	
Contributions:	
Employer initiated	\$ 63,406,162
Employee initiated	2,675,218
<b>Total contributions</b>	<u>66,081,380</u>
Investment income:	
Dividend income	1,945,982
Net increase in the fair value of investments	21,047,674
<b>Net investment income</b>	<u>22,993,656</u>
<b>Total Additions</b>	<u>89,075,036</u>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>	
Distributions	23,941,979
Administrative fees	709,997
<b>Total Deductions</b>	<u>24,651,976</u>
<b>NET INCREASE</b>	<u>64,423,060</u>
<b>FIDUCIARY NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>127,556,558</u>
<b>FIDUCIARY NET POSITION, END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$ 191,979,618</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS**

The following provides a brief description of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund (the Program Fund). For more information, refer to the *Illinois Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program – Program Description* (the Program Description) available at [saver.ilsecurechoice.com](http://saver.ilsecurechoice.com) or call 1-855-650-6914 (employee assistance) or 1-855-650-6913 (employer assistance).

##### **(a) General**

The Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Act (820 ILCS 80/1 et seq.) (the Act) established a retirement savings program in the form of an automatic enrollment payroll deduction Roth Individual Retirement Account (Roth IRA) for the purpose of promoting greater retirement savings for Illinois employees in a convenient, low-cost and portable manner. This workplace retirement savings option, known as the Illinois Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program (the Program), is designed to help workers who do not have access to an employer-sponsored plan to save money for retirement. The Act requires eligible employers to provide their employees the opportunity to save through payroll deductions, unless the employer offers a qualified plan, as specified in the Act. Employees are automatically enrolled into the Program by their employer, unless the employees opt out of the Program within 30 days after notice of their enrollment has been provided to them. Employee participation in the Program is completely voluntary. The employers make no contributions to employee accounts. Subject to laws and regulations applicable to Roth IRA accounts, participating employees may make tax-free withdrawals of contributions and qualified distributions of earnings. In addition to participating in the Program through an eligible employer, any individual 18 years or older who is eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA is able to participate in the Program.

The Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board (the Board), also established under the Act, is an independent board responsible for oversight, administration and management of the Program. The Board consists of the State Treasurer (or his or her designee), who serves as chair; the State Comptroller (or his or her designee); the Director of the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget (or his or her designee); two public representatives with expertise in retirement savings plan administration or investments, or both, appointed by the Governor; a representative of participating employers, appointed by the Governor; and a representative of enrollees, appointed by the Governor. The Board intends that the Program be operated in such a manner as not to be considered a pension plan under Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). Changes in or interpretations of laws and regulations could have a significant impact on the structure of the Program.

Pursuant to the Act, contributions to the Program are held in the Program Fund, a trust for which the Board is trustee. The Act further specifies that amounts deposited in the Program Fund shall not be construed to be a department, institution or agency of the State of Illinois (the State), and amounts on deposit in the Program Fund shall not be commingled with other State funds. The State has no claim to or against, or interest in, assets held in the Program Fund.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND NATURE OF OPERATIONS (Continued)**

##### **(a) General (Continued)**

The Program offers a range of investment options from conservative to aggressive, designed to appeal to varying levels of risk tolerance and return expectations. Each investment option invests in a single underlying mutual fund. Participants purchase units of investment options, not shares of the underlying mutual funds. These units are municipal fund securities.

The Office of the State Treasurer (the Treasurer) and the Board incur certain costs in providing administrative, marketing and oversight services to the Program. These costs, which are not paid directly from Program Fund assets and are not reported as expenses in the accompanying basic financial statements, total approximately \$2.3 million for the year ended June 30, 2024.

##### **(b) Program Administrator**

The Board has entered into a contract with Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC (ACSR), pursuant to which ACSR serves as the Program Administrator. ACSR and its affiliates are responsible for day-to-day Program operations, such as establishing and maintaining accounts for participants, processing transactions as directed by employers and participants, issuing Program account statements and fulfilling Internal Revenue Service (IRS) reporting requirements. Pursuant to the contract with the Treasurer, the Treasurer paid ACSR \$1.0 million during the year ended June 30, 2024 to assist with costs and operational expenses for the Program. These costs are not paid from Program Fund assets and are not reported as expenses in the accompanying basic financial statements.

##### **(c) IRA Custodian**

Ascensus Trust Company, an affiliate of ACSR, serves as the IRA Custodian responsible for providing a cashiering function and other responsibilities under Section 408(a) and other applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

##### **(d) Municipal Securities Custodian**

The Bank of New York Mellon is the custodian of the municipal fund securities (i.e., the units issued to participants) and is responsible for maintaining the assets that are contributed to each investment option.

##### **(e) Investment Managers**

SSGA Funds Management, Inc. (State Street), BlackRock Fund Advisors (BlackRock) and Charles Schwab Investment Management, Inc. (Schwab) manage the underlying mutual funds that comprise each investment option.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### **(a) Basis of Accounting**

In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP) applicable to fiduciary fund types prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), the Program Fund's basic financial statements are prepared using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and accrual basis of accounting.

##### **(b) Income Taxes**

The Program Fund is exempt from federal and state income tax.

##### **(c) Estimates**

The preparation of basic financial statements, in conformity with U.S. GAAP, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results may differ from those estimates.

##### **(d) Investments**

The Program Fund invests in mutual funds, which are reported at fair value, based on the net asset value per share as of the close of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on the reporting date. Net realized and unrealized gains (losses) are included in "net increase (decrease) in the fair value of investments" on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Purchases and sales of shares of mutual funds are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends and capital gain distributions are recorded on the ex-dividend date and are automatically reinvested in additional shares of the respective mutual fund.

Accounting standards categorize fair value measurements according to a hierarchy based on valuation inputs that are used to measure fair value. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices for identical assets in active markets that can be accessed at the measurement date. Level 2 inputs are inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for an asset, either directly or indirectly. Level 3 inputs are unobservable. The fair values of the mutual funds in which the Program Fund invests are determined using Level 1 inputs.

##### **(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents generally include participant contributions that have not yet been invested in the underlying mutual funds and/or redemption proceeds from mutual fund sales to satisfy distribution requests that have not yet been processed.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

##### **(e) Cash and Cash Equivalents (Continued)**

Contribution and distribution transactions are processed through clearing accounts held at JPMorgan Bank, N.A. in the name of the IRA Custodian for the benefit of participants. The combined bank balance of these accounts at June 30, 2024, is \$1,519,980. Balances in these accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), subject to applicable FDIC limits. Amounts in excess of FDIC insurance limits are not collateralized or covered by supplementary insurance.

##### **(f) Contributions**

For employees who have not opted out of the Program, the employer deducts contributions from payroll based on each participating employee's current contribution elections, which can be either the default contribution elections set by the Program or alternate contribution elections selected by the employee, and transfers those payroll deductions to the Program Administrator. Amounts deducted are required to be transmitted to the Program Administrator as soon as administratively possible, not to exceed seven business days from the date of deduction. Individuals who are 18 years or older who are eligible to participate under federal rules governing Roth IRA accounts may also make contributions directly to the Program. Contributions that are received by the Program Administrator in good order prior to the close of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) are credited to participant accounts and recorded as increases in fiduciary net position on the same business day.

Contributions are invested in one or more of the following investment strategies, depending upon participant elections:

**Capital Preservation Fund** is an investment option with the investment objective of maximizing current income, to the extent consistent with the preservation of capital and liquidity, by investing in U.S. dollar denominated money market securities.

**Target Date Retirement Funds** are investment options that correspond with the year closest to when the participating employee will be 65 or plans to retire. Each Target Date Retirement Fund has a specific "target date" (e.g., 2035, 2045, 2055) and invests in an underlying mutual fund that includes a mix of stock and bond funds. These investment options seek to provide for retirement outcomes based on quantitatively measured risk and are broadly diversified across global asset allocations, becoming more conservative over time as the participating employee nears target retirement age.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

##### **(f) Contributions (Continued)**

**Conservative Fund** is an investment option with the investment objective of tracking as closely as possible, before fees and expenses, the total return of an index composed of the total U.S. investment grade bond market.

**Growth Fund** is an investment option with the investment objective of matching the return of large companies in the U.S. stock market by investing generally in stocks that are included in the S&P 500® Index.

**90 Day Holding Vehicle** is not a stand-alone investment option, but is an administrative vehicle that seeks to preserve the value of employee contributions for the length of the Account Revocation Period (described below). The 90 Day Holding Vehicle is only available to those employees who have elected the default contribution elections (also described below).

The Account Revocation Period is the period of time starting from the date a Roth IRA account is established and the employee receives the Program Description, and ending the earlier of 90 days after the first contribution or after the close of business on the business day that an alternate contribution election is made. The Account Revocation Period must last a minimum of seven days from the date the Roth IRA is established and the employee receives the Program Description.

Participants are able to choose the investment option(s) into which their contributions will be invested during the account opening process. For those who participate in the Program through eligible employers, if an employee has not opted out of the Program or has not chosen alternate elections, he or she will be enrolled using the following default contribution elections:

- The initial rate of contribution is 5% of compensation.
- Contributions will be invested in a government money market fund (the 90 Day Holding Vehicle) for the length of the Account Revocation Period.
- The auto-escalation feature will apply by automatically increasing the contribution percentage by 1% each year. The automatic increase will occur on or about January 1 of each year, until the total rate of contribution has reached 10%. The automatic increase will not take place until the participant has contributed to their account for at least six months.
- After the Account Revocation Period, if no alternate contribution election is made, contributions will be invested in the Target Date Retirement Fund based on the age and year of retirement (assuming a retirement age of 65) of the participant.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

##### **(f) Contributions (Continued)**

Employees who do not want to enroll at the default contribution rate of 5% may change their contribution elections, subject to a minimum of 1%, a maximum of 100% and applicable federal annual contribution limits. Individuals who participate directly in the Program (i.e., not through an employer) may choose an auto-escalation feature, which provides for the automatic increase of contribution dollars by varying amounts depending on the amount of current contributions. The participant may opt out of the auto-escalation at any time.

Additionally, participating employees who do not want to use the default election investment options and individuals contributing directly to the Program may choose the investment option(s) into which their contributions will be invested. Although participants may select the investment options in which their contributions are invested, they may not direct the selection of the mutual funds that compose each investment option.

##### **(g) Distributions**

Participants may request distributions from their accounts online, by phone or by mail. Distributions are recorded as deductions from fiduciary net position on the date the request is received if such request is found to be in good order and is received prior to the close of the NYSE.

Distributions presented on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position include paper statement fees (through December 30, 2023) and fixed account fees, paper delivery fees and paper check fees (effective December 31, 2023). Paper statement fees were \$5 for the annual statement and \$15 for all other statements if the participant had not made a positive election to receive all statements electronically, were assessed on or around December 15 each year, and were waived if the participant elected to receive all statements electronically or if they had been contributing to their account for 90 days or fewer. Fixed account fees are \$16 (\$4.00 per quarter) for the administration of the Program and servicing the participant's accounts(s). These fixed account fees will not be assessed until at least 90 days after the initial contribution, nor in the first quarter in which the first contribution is made. Paper delivery fees are \$5 (\$1.25 per quarter) for paper delivery of account statements or transaction and profile confirmations and are waived if the participant sets their delivery preferences to electronic delivery for both account statements and transaction and profile confirmations. These paper delivery fees are not assessed for paper delivery of IRS tax documents. Paper check fees are \$5 per paper withdrawal check and are waived if the participant establishes an electronic bank transfer and requests any account distributions electronically. The paper statement fees, fixed account fees, paper delivery fees and paper check fees, which are all paid to the Program Administrator, total \$1.2 million for the year ended June 30, 2024.





## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 2: SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

##### **(h) Exchanges**

Transfers of funds between investment options due to participants changing their investment elections or due to the movement of account balances from the 90 Day Holding Vehicle to the appropriate Target Date Retirement Fund at the end of the Account Revocation Period are referred to as “exchanges.” The amounts of contributions and distributions reported on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position do not include exchanges, as these types of transactions have no impact on the overall financial position of the Program Fund.

##### **(i) Unit Valuation**

Each participant’s full and/or fractional interest in an investment option is evidenced by a unit. The net asset value of a unit is calculated daily based on the fair value of the mutual fund held in that investment Option, adjusted for the effects of transactions such as accrued fees and investment income. The value of any individual account is determined by multiplying the number of units in an investment option attributable to that participant’s account by the net asset value per unit of that investment option.

##### **(j) Indemnification**

Neither the State, the Board, ACSR nor any other person or entity, indemnifies any participant against losses or other claims arising from the official or unofficial acts, negligent or otherwise, of ACSR, Board members or State employees. In addition, the State, the Board and ACSR enter into contracts related to the operation and administration of the Program that contain a variety of representations and warranties that provide general indemnifications. The maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the State, the Board, ACSR or the Program Fund that have not yet occurred. However, neither the State, the Board, ACSR nor the Program Fund have experienced any prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts, and the risk of loss is expected to be remote.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS

##### (a) Investments by Type

The Program Fund's mutual funds and their respective fair values at June 30, 2024, are as follows:

Investment Option	Underlying Mutual Fund	Fair Value
90 Day Holding Vehicle	State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund - Cabrera Capital Markets Class	\$ 1,294,494
Capital Preservation Fund	State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund - Cabrera Capital Markets Class	430,743
Target Date Retirement Fund	BlackRock LifePath Index Retirement Fund	8,160,169
Target Date Retirement Fund 2025	BlackRock LifePath Index 2025 Fund	12,822,852
Target Date Retirement Fund 2030	BlackRock LifePath Index 2030 Fund	17,466,034
Target Date Retirement Fund 2035	BlackRock LifePath Index 2035 Fund	20,244,432
Target Date Retirement Fund 2040	BlackRock LifePath Index 2040 Fund	18,680,511
Target Date Retirement Fund 2045	BlackRock LifePath Index 2045 Fund	19,446,877
Target Date Retirement Fund 2050	BlackRock LifePath Index 2050 Fund	19,860,937
Target Date Retirement Fund 2055	BlackRock LifePath Index 2055 Fund	22,073,434
Target Date Retirement Fund 2060	BlackRock LifePath Index 2060 Fund	23,426,147
Target Date Retirement Fund 2065	BlackRock LifePath Index 2065 Fund	18,547,283
Target Date Retirement Fund 2070	BlackRock LifePath Index 2065 Fund	1,800,867
Conservative Fund	Schwab U.S. Aggregate Bond Index Fund	675,466
Growth Fund	Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund	7,086,975
Total Investments		<u>\$ 192,017,221</u>

##### (b) Net Increase in the Fair Value of Investments

The following table calculates the net increase in the fair value of the Program Fund's investments during the year ended June 30, 2024:

Fair value of investments, end of year	\$ 192,017,221
Less cost of investments purchased and investment income reinvested during the year	(58,649,434)
Plus proceeds from investments sold during the year	15,318,869
Less fair value of investments, beginning of year	<u>(127,638,982)</u>
Net increase in the fair value of investments	<u>\$ 21,047,674</u>



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS (Continued)**

##### **(c) Investment Risk**

The mutual funds in which the Program Fund invests include in their asset holdings various investment securities, such as corporate debt and equity securities, obligations of the U.S. government and government agencies and international equity securities. These securities are exposed to interest rate, market and credit risk, and it is at least reasonably possible that changes in their fair values could occur in the near term, materially affecting participant balances and the amounts reported in the Program Fund's basic financial statements.

U.S. GAAP requires that certain disclosures be made related to the Program Fund's investment policy and its exposure to credit risk, interest rate risk and foreign currency risk, which are included in the paragraphs that follow.

##### Investment Policy

The Board has adopted investment principles and an investment policy statement that sets forth investment objectives and establishes policies and procedures to create the highest possibility that investment objectives are met in a prudent manner that is consistent with established guidelines for similar retirement savings programs, governing rules and regulations, and best practice standards relevant to the industry. The policy specifies the number and type of investment options offered to participants, the general guidelines for providing suitable options for participants, the guidelines for the selection of underlying investment funds, the ongoing supervision of the underlying investment funds, the monitoring and review of investment performance, and the protocol for adding, replacing or eliminating investment options and/or underlying funds that comprise the investment options.

There are no provisions of the policy that specifically address credit risk, interest rate risk, concentrations of credit risk or foreign currency risk.

##### Credit Risk

Certain mutual funds in which the Program Fund invests may include in their asset holdings bonds issued by corporations, foreign governments, the U.S. government and its agencies and instrumentalities. Through its investment in these mutual funds, the Program Fund is indirectly exposed to credit risk, which is the risk that a bond issuer will fail to pay interest and principal, when due, as a result of adverse market or economic conditions. None of the mutual funds in which the Program Fund invests are rated as to credit quality by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, except for the State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund – Cabrera Capital Markets Class, which is rated AAAM by Standard & Poor's at June 30, 2024.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

**NOTE 3: INVESTMENTS (Continued)**

**(c) Investment Risk (Continued)**

Credit Risk (Continued)

The Program Fund’s mutual funds are not subject to classification by custodial credit risk, which is the risk that the Program Fund will not recover the value of investments that are in the possession of an outside party.

Interest Rate Risk

Certain mutual funds in which the Program Fund invests are exposed to interest rate risk due to bonds being included in their underlying asset holdings. Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely impact the fair value of an investment. Average maturity, which is a measure of interest rate risk, is the average length of time until fixed-income securities held by a fund reach maturity and will be repaid, taking into consideration the possibility that the issuer may call a bond before its maturity date. In general, the longer the average maturity, the more a fund’s share price will fluctuate in response to changes in interest rates. As of June 30, 2024, the average maturity of holdings in each of the bond funds in which the Program Fund’s assets are invested are as follows:

	<u>Average Maturity</u>
State Street Institutional U.S. Government Money Market Fund – Cabrera Capital Markets Class	48 days
Schwab U.S. Aggregate Bond Index Fund	8.4 years

Foreign Currency Risk

The Program Fund does not have any direct exposure to foreign currency risk. However, certain mutual funds in which the Program Fund invests may include in their asset holdings foreign debt and equity securities. There are certain inherent risks involved when investing in international securities that are not present with investments in domestic securities, such as foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations, adverse political and economic developments and the possible prevention or delay of currency exchange due to foreign governmental laws or restrictions.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 4: FEES AND EXPENSES**

Each participant indirectly bears a pro-rata share of the annual costs and expenses associated with each investment option in which his or her assets are invested. Each investment option is subject to an annualized asset-based fee that is deducted from assets in that investment option. The annualized asset-based fee reduces the return participants earn on their investments in the Program Fund.

The annualized asset-based fee consists of the Program administration fee, the State fee and the underlying investment fund fee, as described below. These fees accrue daily and are factored into the net asset value of each investment option.

#### Program Administration Fee

The Program Administrator receives a fee as compensation for providing administrative services to the Program. Through December 30, 2023, this fee varied based on the underlying investment fund fee described below and on the following page. Effective December 31, 2023, this fee is 0.25% of net position of each investment option. This fee is paid from Program Fund assets and is reflected as a reduction in fiduciary net position on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position.

#### State Fee

The Board receives a fee to be used to offset expenses related to oversight and administration of the Program. This fee, which is 0.05% of net position of each investment option, is paid from Program Fund assets and is reflected as a reduction in fiduciary net position on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position.

In order to maintain a 0% net yield in the Capital Preservation Fund and the 90 Day Holding Vehicle, the Treasurer may waive the State fee. There were no fee waivers during the year ended June 30, 2024. In addition, the Treasurer may direct that the Program administration fee be reduced and reimbursed to the Program Fund. There were no fee reimbursements during the year ended June 30, 2024.

#### Underlying Investment Fund Fee

The underlying investment fund fee includes the investment advisory fees, administrative fees and other expenses of each underlying mutual fund in which Program Fund assets are invested. The underlying investment fund fee is paid out of the assets of the mutual fund, reducing the amount of income available for distribution to the Program Fund, and is not paid from Program Fund assets. As such, these fees are not reported on the statement of changes in fiduciary net position. A mutual fund's expense ratio measures the total annual operating expenses of the fund as a percentage of its average daily net assets. This fee is subject to fluctuation from time to time based on changes in the total annual operating expenses of the mutual fund.



## Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

June 30, 2024

**NOTE 4: FEES AND EXPENSES (Continued)**

Underlying Investment Fund Fee (Continued)

Through December 30, 2023, the total underlying investment fund fee and Program administration fee was 0.70% of net position of each investment option. The Program administration fee paid from Program Fund assets would fluctuate based on fluctuations in the underlying investment fund fee, to ensure that the total of these fees always equaled 0.70%. Effective December 31, 2023, the underlying investment fund fee no longer has an impact on the determination of the Program administration fee.

Administrative fees paid from Program Fund assets related to the year ended June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Program administration fee	\$ 632,918
State fee	<u>77,079</u>
Total administrative fees	<u><u>\$ 709,997</u></u>



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING  
AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS***

Members of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board,  
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and  
Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC  
Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the **Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund** (the Program Fund), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Program Fund's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 6, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the basic financial statements, we considered the Program Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the basic financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Program Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Program Fund's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Members of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board,  
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and  
Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC  
Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

### **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Program Fund's basic financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the basic financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Program Fund's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Program Fund's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Landmark PLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Little Rock, Arkansas  
September 6, 2024



**Other Information**  
**(Unaudited)**



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON OTHER INFORMATION

Members of the Illinois Secure Choice Savings Board,  
Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and  
Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC  
Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund

We have audited the basic financial statements of the **Illinois Secure Choice Savings Program Fund** (the Program Fund), and we have issued our opinion thereon in our report dated September 6, 2024. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements as a whole. The schedule on page 33, which details amounts spent by the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer on outside consulting services related to the Illinois Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program during the year ended June 30, 2024, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. These amounts are not reflected as expenses in the basic financial statements of the Program Fund. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information in this schedule.

*Landmark PLC*

Little Rock, Arkansas  
September 6, 2024



**SECURE CHOICE SPENDING ON OUTSIDE CONSULTING SERVICES  
(Unaudited)  
FY2024 (July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024)**

The following table provides a summary of Secure Choice spending for FY2024 on services provided by outside consulting firms, independent contractors or entities separate and outside of state government for administration and implementation of Secure Choice<sup>(1)</sup>. This is total spending for FY2024 from the internal budget of the Treasurer’s Office and is separate from the fees paid by program participants to Ascensus for administration of the Program or fees paid to investment managers.

<b>Budget Line Item</b>	<b>FY24 Spending</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Auditing and Management Services	\$1,127,500.00	<p>Money spent on program management services, administrative consulting services, investment consulting services, IT consulting services, and marketing services.</p> <p>*This figure includes a payment to Ascensus for program management services and was part of a contract agreement.</p>
Surety Bond & Insurance Premiums	\$107,400.00	Total purchase cost of annual liability and cyber security insurance policy for the IL Secure Choice Board and Program.
Advertising	\$77,062.50	Media buys related to Secure Choice marketing conducted by outside marketing firm.

<sup>(1)</sup> Inclusion of these budget line items is required by 820 ILCS 80/80.