

# A Hypothetical Illustration for BUS-123 Spring 2018

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**PREPARED BY**

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This report is not complete unless all pages, as noted below, are included. Please read the information in the 'Important Disclosures' found at the beginning of this report.

**Investments are not FDIC - insured, nor are they deposits of or guaranteed by a bank or any other entity, so they may lose value.**

## Important Disclosures

**Figures shown are past results and are not predictive of results in future periods. Current and future results may be lower or higher than those shown. Share prices and returns will vary, so investors may lose money. Investing for short periods makes losses more likely. For more current information and month-end results, visit [americanfunds.com](http://americanfunds.com).**

Regular investing does not ensure a profit or protect against loss. Investors should consider their willingness to keep investing when share prices are declining. Market indexes are unmanaged and, therefore, have no expenses. Investors cannot invest directly in an index. Results for the Lipper indexes do not reflect sales charges. There have been periods when the fund has lagged the index.

This illustration must be preceded or accompanied by the fund's current summary prospectus or prospectus, which details charges, expenses, investment objectives and operating policies. The American Funds are distributed by American Funds Distributors, Inc.

Investment results assume all distributions are reinvested and reflect applicable fees and expenses. Expense ratios are as of each fund's prospectus available at the time of publication. The expense ratios for American Funds Corporate Bond Fund and Class F-3 shares are estimated. When applicable, investment results reflect fee waivers and/or expense reimbursements, without which results would have been lower. Please see [americanfunds.com](http://americanfunds.com) for more information. The investment advisor is currently reimbursing a portion of other expenses for all share classes of American Funds Corporate Bond Fund, American Funds Tax-Exempt Fund of New York and American Funds Tax-Exempt Preservation Portfolio; Class F-3 shares of American Funds 2010 to 2055 Target Date Retirement Series funds; Class R-2E shares of American Mutual Fund, Capital Income Builder, American Funds Global Balanced Fund, American Funds Inflation Linked Bond Fund, American Funds Mortgage Fund and Short-Term Bond Fund of America; Class R-5E shares of AMCAP Fund, The New Economy Fund, New Perspective Fund, New World Fund, SMALLCAP World Fund, American Mutual Fund, Capital World Growth and Income Fund, Capital Income Builder, American Funds Global Balanced Fund, and all funds in the American Funds Portfolio Series; and a portion of fees and expenses for American Funds U.S. Government Money Market Fund (MMF). Investment results and net expense ratios reflect the reimbursements, without which the results would have been lower and the expense ratios would have been higher. These reimbursements will be in effect through at least April 7, 2018 (May 1, 2018 for AMCAP), unless modified or terminated by the fund's board. The advisor may elect at its discretion to extend, modify or terminate the reimbursement at that time. For MMF, please see the Financial Highlights table in the fund's most recent prospectus for details. The expense ratios for the College Target Date Series, Target Date Retirement Series and Portfolio Fund Series include the weighted average expenses of the underlying funds. Please see the fund's most recent prospectus for details.

### Standardized Average Annual Total Returns for Quarter Ended 12/31/2017

Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized

#### Inception Max. Initial Sales

| Security Name                               | Inception Date | Max. Initial Sales Charge/CDSC | 1 Year | 5 Years | 10 Years | Since Inception |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| The Investment Company of America A (AIVSX) | 1/1/1934       | 5.75% Front                    | 12.85% | 13.60%  | 7.05%    | 12.11%          |

#### Gross Charges and Expenses

| Fund Name                                   | Sales Charge | Max CDSC | Max Redem Fee | Total Gross Operating Expense |
|---|--------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| The Investment Company of America A (AIVSX) | 5.75%        | 1.00%    | 0.00%         | 0.60%                         |

The fund does not assess redemption fees. However, shareholders redeeming shares may be subject to the fund's Purchase Blocking Policy as described in the prospectus.

The illustration included herein does not reflect the effects of taxes in some or all of the investments.

**If the results shown on the following pages do not reflect deduction of an initial sales charge (i.e. they are at net asset value), please note that they would have been lower if the sales charge had been deducted.**

**Class A shares are subject to an up-front maximum sales charge of 5.75% for equity funds and most Portfolio Series funds, 3.75% for most fixed income funds and American Funds Tax-Advantaged Income Portfolio, and 2.50% for Intermediate Bond Fund of America, Short-Term Bond Fund of America, American Funds Short-Term Tax-Exempt Bond Fund, Limited Term Tax-Exempt Bond Fund of America, American**

**Funds Preservation Portfolio and American Funds Tax-Exempt Preservation Portfolio. The sales charge declines for accounts and aggregated investments (\$25,000 for equity and target date funds, \$100,000 for most bond funds, \$500,000 for Intermediate Bond Fund of America, Short Term Bond Fund of America, American Funds Short-Term Tax-Exempt Bond Fund, and Limited Term Tax-Exempt Bond Fund of America). There is no initial sales charge on purchases of \$1 million or more. A 1% contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC) may be assessed if a redemption occurs within 18 months of purchase. Results on the following pages reflect deduction of the CDSC if the investment is \$1 million or more and a withdrawal is selected within 18 months of purchase. Certain withdrawals before age 59 1/2 may be subject to income tax and, if applicable, to a 10% federal penalty. For current information and month-end results, visit [americanfunds.com](http://americanfunds.com).**

- The A/529-A share 1, 5, and 10-year return for each fund is based on the MOP value.
- The "Average annual return on the investment" is based on the initial investment and the breakpoint chosen.
- Cumulative Volume Discount Reflected Where Applicable in This Illustration.
- NOTE: Systematic Accumulation Plans cannot assure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets.

**The Investment Company of America A (AIVSX)**

| Date       | Initial Investment | Initial Sales Charge | Net Amount Invested | Shares Purchased |
|------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 01/01/1988 | \$100.00           | 5.75%                | \$94                | 7.474            |

\$100 initial investment on 01/01/1988. Dividends and capital gains are reinvested. Subsequent investments of \$100.00 from 02/01/1988 to 12/31/2017 every month, on the first day of the month. The initial investment is subject to a 5.75% sales charge. Subsequent investments are subject to a sales charge of up to 5.75%. The effects of income and capital gains taxes are not demonstrated.

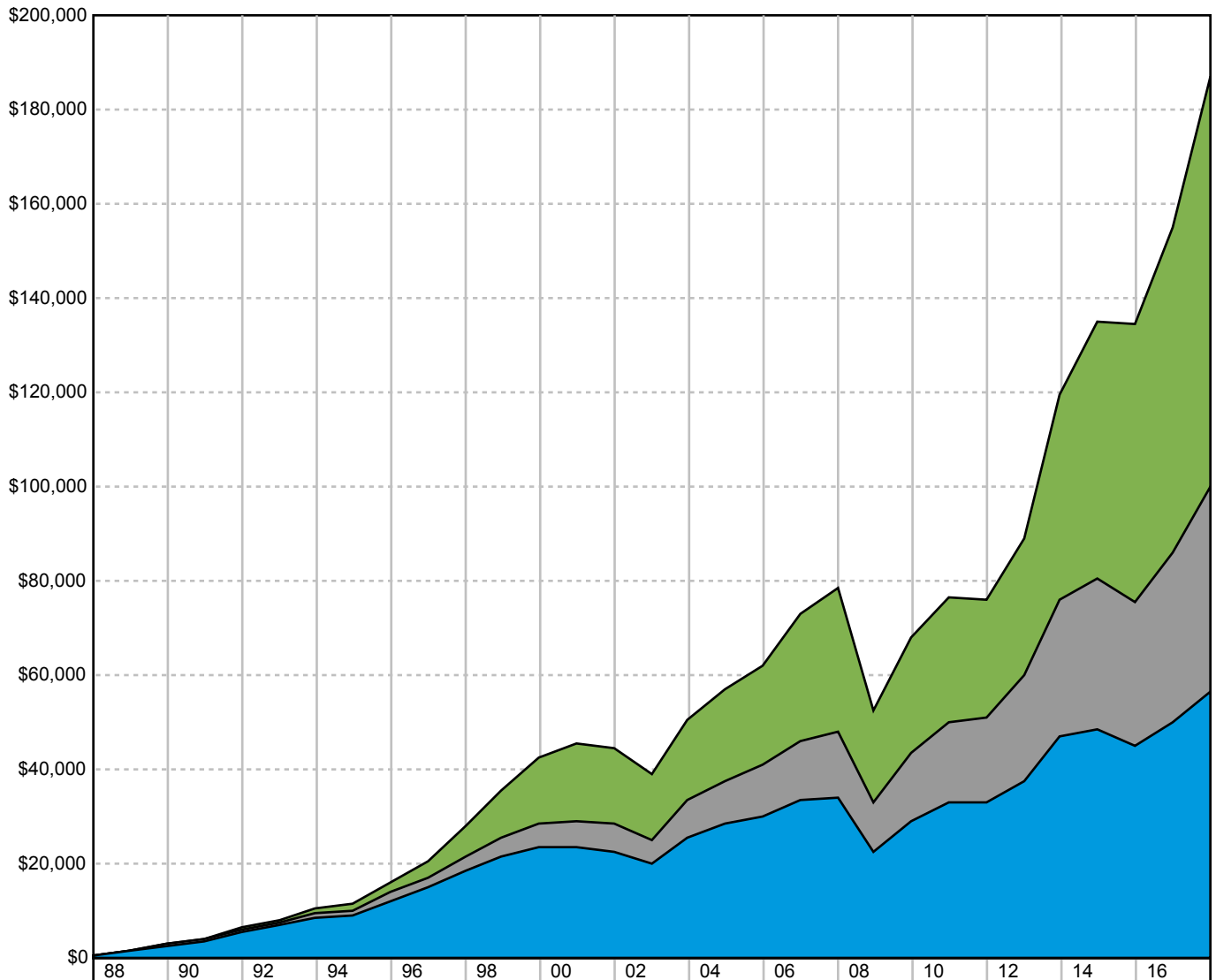
| Date         | Investment(s) | Dividend Income | Total Dividend Income | Capital Gains | Shares Held  | Total Value    |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 12/31/1988   | 1,200         | 33              | 33                    | 62            | 93           | 1,197          |
| 12/31/1989   | 1,200         | 89              | 121                   | 143           | 185          | 2,815          |
| 12/31/1990   | 1,200         | 143             | 264                   | 57            | 275          | 3,997          |
| 12/31/1991   | 1,200         | 142             | 406                   | 127           | 362          | 6,323          |
| 12/31/1992   | 1,200         | 192             | 598                   | 139           | 445          | 7,960          |
| 12/31/1993   | 1,200         | 230             | 828                   | 384           | 539          | 10,089         |
| 12/31/1994   | 1,200         | 280             | 1,108                 | 366           | 636          | 11,237         |
| 12/31/1995   | 1,200         | 339             | 1,448                 | 642           | 740          | 15,982         |
| 12/31/1996   | 1,200         | 388             | 1,836                 | 825           | 839          | 20,327         |
| 12/31/1997   | 1,200         | 436             | 2,272                 | 2,317         | 980          | 27,675         |
| 12/31/1998   | 1,200         | 520             | 2,792                 | 3,043         | 1,137        | 35,317         |
| 12/31/1999   | 1,200         | 599             | 3,391                 | 3,619         | 1,307        | 42,415         |
| 12/31/2000   | 1,200         | 702             | 4,093                 | 2,833         | 1,455        | 45,206         |
| 12/31/2001   | 1,200         | 778             | 4,871                 | 885           | 1,551        | 44,256         |
| 12/31/2002   | 1,200         | 828             | 5,699                 | 740           | 1,657        | 38,904         |
| 12/31/2003   | 1,200         | 884             | 6,583                 | 363           | 1,751        | 50,492         |
| 12/31/2004   | 1,200         | 929             | 7,513                 | 644           | 1,843        | 56,665         |
| 12/31/2005   | 1,200         | 1,281           | 8,794                 | 1,544         | 1,970        | 61,766         |
| 12/31/2006   | 1,200         | 1,487           | 10,281                | 4,189         | 2,174        | 72,857         |
| 12/31/2007   | 1,200         | 1,459           | 11,739                | 4,158         | 2,378        | 78,340         |
| 12/31/2008   | 1,200         | 1,647           | 13,387                | 0             | 2,481        | 52,005         |
| 12/31/2009   | 1,200         | 1,449           | 14,836                | 0             | 2,602        | 67,531         |
| 12/31/2010   | 1,200         | 1,486           | 16,322                | 0             | 2,704        | 76,138         |
| 12/31/2011   | 1,200         | 1,596           | 17,918                | 0             | 2,803        | 75,926         |
| 12/31/2012   | 1,200         | 2,056           | 19,973                | 1,209         | 2,950        | 88,982         |
| 12/31/2013   | 1,200         | 1,886           | 21,860                | 7,580         | 3,247        | 119,180        |
| 12/31/2014   | 1,200         | 2,386           | 24,246                | 11,068        | 3,636        | 134,817        |
| 12/31/2015   | 1,200         | 2,294           | 26,540                | 9,364         | 4,016        | 134,018        |
| 12/31/2016   | 1,200         | 2,787           | 29,326                | 5,329         | 4,274        | 154,830        |
| 12/31/2017   | 1,200         | 2,939           | 32,265                | 9,837         | 4,621        | 186,655        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>36,000</b> | <b>32,265</b>   | <b>32,265</b>         | <b>71,469</b> | <b>4,621</b> | <b>186,655</b> |

Average annual return on the investment for the period 01/01/1988 - 12/31/2017 : 9.44%

1/1/1988 - 12/31/2017

Total Ending Amount: \$186,655

**The Investment Company of America A (AIVSX)** : \$100 initial investment on 01/01/1988. Dividends and capital gains are reinvested. Subsequent investments of \$100.00 from 02/01/1988 to 12/31/2017 every month, on the first day of the month. The initial investment is subject to a 5.75% sales charge. Subsequent investments are subject to a sales charge of up to 5.75%. The effects of income and capital gains taxes are not demonstrated.



- From Capital Gains (Ending value: \$86,740)
- From Income (Ending value: \$43,442)
- From Principal (Ending value: \$56,473)

This graph must be accompanied by the underlying Hypo illustration(s).