



**BNY MELLON**

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

# **BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund: Opportunistic Small Cap Portfolio**

Prospectus | April 30, 2021

**Initial Shares**  
**Service Shares**

As with all mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

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*See back cover.*

# Fund Summary

## Investment Objective

The fund seeks capital growth.

## Fees and Expenses

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy, hold and sell shares of the fund. **You may pay other fees, such as brokerage commissions and other fees to financial intermediaries, which are not reflected in the table and examples below.** These figures also do not reflect any fees or charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their Variable Annuity contracts (VA contracts) or Variable Life Insurance policies (VLI policies), and, if such fees and/or charges were included, the fees and expenses would be higher.

<b>Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b> (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)		
	<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>Service Shares</b>
Management fees	.75	.75
Distribution and/or service (12b-1) fees	none	.25
Other expenses	.10	.10
Total annual fund operating expenses	.85	1.10

## Example

The 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 hold or redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the fund's operating expenses remain the same. The Example does not reflect fees and expenses incurred under VA contracts and VLI policies; if they were reflected, the figures in the Example would be higher. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>3 Years</b>	<b>5 Years</b>	<b>10 Years</b>
Initial Shares	\$87	\$271	\$471	\$1,049
Service Shares	\$112	\$350	\$606	\$1,340

## 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 may indicate higher transaction costs. 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 68.67% of the average value of its portfolio.

## Principal Investment Strategy

To pursue its goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in the stocks of small cap companies. The fund currently considers small cap companies to be those companies with market capitalizations that fall within the range of companies in the Russell 2000® Index, the fund's benchmark index. As of February 28, 2021, the market capitalization of the largest company in the index was approximately \$23.5 billion, and the weighted average and median market capitalizations of the index were approximately \$3.8 billion and \$1.0 billion, respectively. Stocks are selected for the fund's portfolio based primarily on bottom-up fundamental analysis. The fund's portfolio managers use a disciplined investment process that relies, in general, on proprietary fundamental research and valuation. Generally, elements of the process include analysis of a company's business prospects, estimation of the company's value and the identification of events that could cause the estimated value of the company to change. In general, the fund seeks exposure to securities and sectors that the fund's portfolio managers perceive to be attractive from a valuation and fundamental standpoint.

## Principal Risks

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An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The fund's share price fluctuates, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions or because of factors that affect the particular company or the company's industry.
- *Small and midsize company risk.* Small and midsize companies carry additional risks because the operating histories of these companies tend to be more limited, their earnings and revenues less predictable (and some companies may be experiencing significant losses), and their share prices more volatile than those of larger, more established companies. The shares of smaller companies tend to trade less frequently than those of larger, more established companies, which can adversely affect the pricing of these securities and the fund's ability to sell these securities.
- *Growth and value stock risk.* By investing in a mix of growth and value companies, the fund assumes the risks of both. Investors often expect growth companies to increase their earnings at a certain rate. If these expectations are not met, investors can punish the stocks inordinately, even if earnings do increase. In addition, growth stocks may lack the dividend yield that may cushion stock prices in market downturns. Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth or the expected value was misgauged. They also may decline in price even though in theory they are already undervalued.
- *Market risk.* The value of the securities in which the fund invests may be affected by political, regulatory, economic and social developments, and developments that impact specific economic sectors, industries or segments of the market. In addition, turbulence in financial markets and reduced liquidity in equity, credit and/or fixed income markets may negatively affect many issuers, which could adversely affect the fund. Global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, and conditions and events in one country, region or financial market may adversely impact issuers in a different country, region or financial market. These risks may be magnified if certain events or developments adversely interrupt the global supply chain; in these and other circumstances, such risks might affect companies world-wide. Recent examples include pandemic risks related to COVID-19 and aggressive measures taken world-wide in response by governments, including closing borders, restricting international and domestic travel, and the imposition of prolonged quarantines of large populations, and by businesses, including changes to operations and reducing staff.
- *Liquidity risk.* When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to sell the securities in a timely manner at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically. Investments that are illiquid or that trade in lower volumes may be more difficult to value.
- *Management risk.* The investment process used by the fund's portfolio managers could fail to achieve the fund's investment goal and cause your fund investment to lose value.

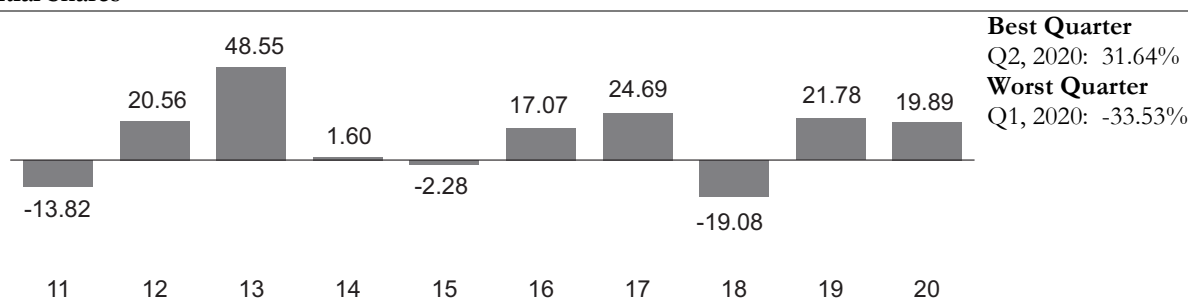
## Performance

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The following bar chart and table provide some indication of the risks of investing in the fund. The bar chart shows changes in the performance of the fund's Initial shares from year to year. The table compares the average annual total returns of the fund's shares to those of a broad measure of market performance. The fund's past performance is not necessarily an indication of how the fund will perform in the future. More recent performance information may be available at [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com).

Performance information reflects the fund's expenses only and does not reflect the fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies under their VA contracts or VLI policies. Because these fees and charges will reduce total return, policyowners should consider them when evaluating and comparing the fund's performance. Policyowners should consult the prospectus for their contract or policy for more information.

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**Year-by-Year Total Returns** as of 12/31 each year (%)**Initial Shares**

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**Average Annual Total Returns** (as of 12/31/20)

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
<b>Initial Shares</b>	19.89%	11.52%	10.21%
<b>Service Shares</b>	19.58%	11.24%	9.93%
<b>Russell 2000® Index</b> reflects no deductions for fees, expenses or taxes	19.96%	13.26%	11.20%

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**Portfolio Management**

The fund's investment adviser is BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc. (BNYM Investment Adviser).

The fund is managed by a team of portfolio managers employed by BNYM Investment Adviser and Mellon Investments Corporation (Mellon), an affiliate of BNYM Investment Adviser. The team members who are jointly and primarily responsible for managing the fund's portfolio are Patrick Kent, CFA, CMT and James Boyd, CFA. Mr. Kent has served as lead portfolio manager of the fund since March 2019. Mr. Boyd has been a primary portfolio manager of the fund since June 2011. Mr. Kent is an executive vice president and a senior portfolio manager. He is the lead portfolio manager for the opportunistic value strategies and head of the small mid cap equity research team at Mellon. Mr. Boyd is a managing director and a senior portfolio manager at Mellon.

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**Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares**

Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying, selling (redeeming), or exchanging fund shares.

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**Tax Information**

The fund's distributions are taxable as ordinary income or capital gains. Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

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**Payments to Broker-Dealers and Other Financial Intermediaries**

If you purchase shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as an insurance company), the fund's distributor and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of fund shares and related services. To the extent that the intermediary may receive lesser or no payments in connection with the sale of other investments, the payments from the fund's distributor and its related companies may create a potential conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your financial representative to recommend the fund over the other investments. This potential conflict of interest may be addressed by policies, procedures or practices adopted by the financial intermediary. As there may be many different policies, procedures or practices adopted by different intermediaries to address the manner in which compensation is earned through the sale of investments or the provision of related services, the compensation rates and other payment arrangements that may apply to a financial intermediary

and its representatives may vary by intermediary. Ask your financial representative or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

# Fund Details

## Introduction

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Fund shares are offered only to separate accounts established by insurance companies to fund VA contracts and VLI policies. Individuals may not purchase shares directly from, or place sell orders directly with, the fund. The VA contracts and the VLI policies are described in the separate prospectuses issued by the participating insurance companies, over which the fund assumes no responsibility. Conflicts may arise between the interests of VA contract holders and VLI policyholders (collectively, policyowners). The board will monitor events to identify any material conflicts and, if such conflicts arise, determine what action, if any, should be taken.

The fund currently offers two classes of shares: Initial shares and Service shares. Policyowners should consult the applicable prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company to determine which class of fund shares may be purchased by the separate account.

While the fund's investment objective and policies may be similar to those of other funds managed by the investment adviser(s), the fund's investment results may be higher or lower than, and may not be comparable to, those of the other funds.

## Goal and Approach

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The fund seeks capital growth. To pursue its goal, the fund normally invests at least 80% of its net assets, plus any borrowings for investment purposes, in the stocks of small cap companies. The fund's investment policy with respect to the investment of at least 80% of its net assets may be changed by the fund's board upon 60 days' prior notice to shareholders. The fund currently considers small cap companies to be those companies with market capitalizations that fall within the range of companies in the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index, the fund's benchmark index. As of February 28, 2021, the market capitalization of the largest company in the index was approximately \$23.5 billion, and the weighted average and median market capitalizations of the index were approximately \$3.8 billion and \$1.0 billion, respectively. These capitalization measures vary with market changes and reconstitutions of the index. The fund invests principally in common stocks.

Stocks are selected for the fund's portfolio based primarily on bottom-up fundamental analysis. The fund's portfolio managers use a disciplined investment process that relies, in general, on proprietary fundamental research and valuation. Generally, elements of the process include analysis of a company's business prospects, estimation of the company's value and the identification of events that could cause the estimated value of the company to change. A company's estimated value is based on the combination of the valuation assessment of the company's operating divisions with its economic balance sheet. Mid-cycle estimates, growth prospects and competitive advantages are some of the factors used in the valuation assessment. A company's stated and hidden liabilities and assets are included in the portfolio managers' economic balance sheet calculation. Sector overweights and underweights are a function of the relative attractiveness of securities within the fund's investable universe. The fund's portfolio managers select stocks that are believed to have attractive reward to risk opportunities and may actively adjust the fund's portfolio to reflect new developments.

In general, the fund seeks exposure to securities and sectors that the fund's portfolio managers perceive to be attractive from a valuation and fundamental standpoint. The fund's sector weightings and risk characteristics are a result of bottom-up fundamental analysis and may vary from those of the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index at any given time. The Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index is an unmanaged index that measures the performance of the small capitalization sector of the U.S. equity market.

The fund typically sells a stock when it approaches intrinsic value, a significant deterioration of fundamental expectations develops, the revaluation catalyst becomes impaired or a better risk/reward opportunity is presented in the marketplace.

Although not a principal investment strategy, the fund's stock investments also may include preferred stocks and convertible securities of both U.S. and foreign issuers, including those purchased in initial public offerings (IPOs).

Although not a principal investment strategy, the fund may invest in exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in order to provide exposure to certain equity markets. Although not a principal investment strategy, the fund may invest up to 25% of its

assets in foreign securities (i.e., securities issued by companies organized under the laws of countries other than the U.S.), but currently intends to invest no more than 20% of its assets in foreign securities.

Although not a principal investment strategy, the fund may, but is not required to, use derivative instruments as a substitute for investing directly in an underlying asset, to increase returns or as part of a hedging strategy. The derivative instruments in which the fund may invest include principally options, futures and options on futures (including those relating to securities, indices, foreign currencies and interest notes), forward contracts and swap agreements. To the extent such derivative instruments have similar economic characteristics to stocks of companies as described in the fund's policy with respect to the investment of at least 80% of its net assets, the market value of such instruments will be included in the 80% policy. Derivatives may be entered into on established exchanges or through privately negotiated transactions referred to as over-the-counter derivatives. A derivatives contract will obligate or entitle the fund to deliver or receive an asset or cash payment based on the change in value of the underlying asset. When the fund enters into derivatives transactions, it may be required to segregate liquid assets or enter into offsetting positions or otherwise cover its obligations, in accordance with applicable regulations, while the positions are open. The fund also may engage in short-selling, typically for hedging purposes, such as to limit exposure to a possible market decline in the value of its portfolio securities.

Although not a principal investment strategy, the fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions needing to borrow securities to complete certain transactions. Loans of portfolio securities may not exceed 33-1/3% of the value of the fund's total assets.

## Investment Risks

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An investment in the fund is not a bank deposit. It is not insured or guaranteed by the FDIC or any other government agency. It is not a complete investment program. The value of your investment in the fund will fluctuate, sometimes dramatically, which means you could lose money.

- *Risks of stock investing.* Stocks generally fluctuate more in value than bonds and may decline significantly over short time periods. There is the chance that stock prices overall will decline because stock markets tend to move in cycles, with periods of rising prices and falling prices. The market value of a stock may decline due to general market conditions that are not related to the particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. A security's market value also may decline because of factors that affect the particular company, such as management performance, financial leverage and reduced demand for the company's products or services, or factors that affect the company's industry, such as labor shortages or increased production costs and competitive conditions within an industry.
- *Small and midsize company risk.* Small and midsize companies carry additional risks because the operating histories of these companies tend to be more limited, their earnings and revenues less predictable (and some companies may be experiencing significant losses), and their share prices more volatile than those of larger, more established companies. These companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or may depend on a limited management group. Investments may be made in anticipation of future products, services or events whose delay or cancellation could cause the stock price to drop. The shares of smaller companies tend to trade less frequently than those of larger, more established companies, which can adversely affect the pricing of these securities and the fund's ability to sell these securities. Some of the fund's investments will rise and fall based on investor perception rather than economic factors.
- *Growth and value stock risk.* By investing in a mix of growth and value companies, the fund assumes the risks of both. Investors often expect growth companies to increase their earnings at a certain rate. If these expectations are not met, investors can punish the stocks inordinately, even if earnings do increase. In addition, growth stocks may lack the dividend yield that may cushion stock prices in market downturns. Value stocks involve the risk that they may never reach their expected full market value, either because the market fails to recognize the stock's intrinsic worth or the expected value was misgauged. They also may decline in price even though in theory they are already undervalued.
- *Market risk.* The value of the securities in which the fund invests may be affected by political, regulatory, economic and social developments, and developments that impact specific economic sectors, industries or segments of the market. In addition, turbulence in financial markets and reduced liquidity in equity, credit and/or fixed income markets may negatively affect many issuers, which could adversely affect the fund. Global economies and financial markets are becoming increasingly interconnected, and conditions and events in one country, region or financial market may adversely impact issuers in a different country, region or financial market. These risks may be magnified if certain events or developments adversely interrupt the global supply chain; in these and other circumstances, such risks might affect companies world-wide. Recent examples include pandemic risks related to COVID-19 and aggressive measures taken world-wide in response by governments, including closing borders, restricting international



and domestic travel, and the imposition of prolonged quarantines of large populations, and by businesses, including changes to operations and reducing staff. The effects of COVID-19 have contributed to increased volatility in global markets and will likely affect certain countries, companies, industries and market sectors more dramatically than others. The COVID-19 pandemic has had, and any other outbreak of an infectious disease or other serious public health concern could have, a significant negative impact on economic and market conditions and could trigger a prolonged period of global economic slowdown. To the extent the fund may overweight its investments in certain countries, companies, industries or market sectors, such positions will increase the fund's exposure to risk of loss from adverse developments affecting those countries, companies, industries or sectors.

- *Liquidity risk.* When there is little or no active trading market for specific types of securities, it can become more difficult to sell the securities in a timely manner at or near their perceived value. In such a market, the value of such securities and the fund's share price may fall dramatically. Investments that are illiquid or that trade in lower volumes may be more difficult to value. Investments in foreign securities tend to have greater exposure to liquidity risk than domestic securities. Liquidity risk also may refer to the risk that the fund will not be able to pay redemption proceeds within the allowable time period stated in this prospectus because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, or other reasons. To meet redemption requests, the fund may be forced to sell securities at an unfavorable time and/or under unfavorable conditions, which may adversely affect the fund's share price.
- *Management risk.* The investment process and techniques used by the fund's portfolio managers could fail to achieve the fund's investment goal, may cause your fund investment to lose value or may cause the fund to underperform other funds with similar investment goals.

In addition to the principal risks described above, the fund is subject to the following additional risks that are not anticipated to be principal risks of investing in the fund:

- *Foreign investment risk.* To the extent the fund invests in foreign securities, the fund's performance will be influenced by political, social and economic factors affecting investments in foreign issuers. Special risks associated with investments in foreign issuers include exposure to currency fluctuations, less liquidity, less developed or less efficient trading markets, lack of comprehensive company information, political and economic instability and differing auditing and legal standards. Investments denominated in foreign currencies are subject to the risk that such currencies will decline in value relative to the U.S. dollar and affect the value of these investments held by the fund.
- *Derivatives risk.* A small investment in derivatives could have a potentially large impact on the fund's performance. The use of derivatives involves risks different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the underlying assets, and the fund's use of derivatives may result in losses to the fund. Derivatives in which the fund may invest can be highly volatile, illiquid and difficult to value, and there is the risk that changes in the value of a derivative held by the fund will not correlate with the underlying assets or the fund's other investments in the manner intended. Certain derivatives have the potential for unlimited loss, regardless of the size of the initial investment, and involve greater risks than the underlying assets because, in addition to general market risks, they are subject to liquidity risk, credit and counterparty risk (failure of the counterparty to the derivatives transaction to honor its obligation) and pricing risk (risk that the derivative cannot or will not be accurately valued). The Securities and Exchange Commission recently adopted Rule 18f-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (1940 Act), which will regulate the use of derivatives for certain funds registered under the 1940 Act. Unless the fund qualifies as a "limited derivatives user" as defined in Rule 18f-4, the rule would, among other things, require the fund to establish a comprehensive derivatives risk management program, to comply with certain value-at-risk based leverage limits, to appoint a derivatives risk manager and to provide additional disclosure both publicly and to the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding its derivatives positions. If the fund qualifies as a limited derivatives user, Rule 18f-4 would require the fund to have policies and procedures to manage its aggregate derivatives risk. These requirements could have an impact on the fund, including a potential increase in cost to enter into derivatives transactions and may require the fund to alter, perhaps materially, its use of derivatives.
- *Leverage risk.* The use of leverage, such as lending portfolio securities and entering into futures contracts or forward currency contracts, may magnify the fund's gains or losses. Because many derivatives have a leverage component, adverse changes in the value or level of the underlying asset or reference rate can result in a loss substantially greater than the amount invested in the derivative itself.
- *Short sale risk.* The fund may make short sales, which involves selling a security it does not own in anticipation that the security's price will decline. Short sales expose the fund to the risk that it will be required to buy the security sold short (also known as "covering" the short position) at a time when the security has appreciated in value, thus resulting in a loss to the fund. Short positions in stocks involve more risk than long positions in stocks because the maximum sustainable loss on a stock purchased is limited to the amount paid for the stock plus the transaction costs, whereas there is no maximum attainable price on the shorted stock. As such, theoretically, stocks sold short have unlimited

risk. The fund may not always be able to close out a short position at a particular time or at an acceptable price. The fund may not always be able to borrow a security the fund seeks to sell short at a particular time or at an acceptable price. Moreover, if the lender of a borrowed security requires the fund to return the security to it on short notice, and the fund is unable to borrow the security from another lender, the fund may have to buy the borrowed security at an unfavorable price, resulting in a loss. Thus, there is a risk that the fund may be unable to engage in short selling due to a lack of available stocks or for some other reason. It is possible that the market value of the securities the fund holds in long positions will decline at the same time that the market value of the securities the fund has sold short increases, thereby increasing the fund's potential volatility.

- *Preferred stock risk.* Preferred stock is a class of a capital stock that typically pays dividends at a specified rate. Preferred stock is generally senior to common stock, but subordinate to debt securities, with respect to the payment of dividends and on liquidation of the issuer. The market value of preferred stock generally decreases when interest rates rise and is also affected by the issuer's ability to make payments on the preferred stock.
- *Convertible securities risk.* Convertible securities may be converted at either a stated price or stated rate into underlying shares of common stock. Convertible securities generally are subordinated to other similar but non-convertible securities of the same issuer. Although to a lesser extent than with fixed-income securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase. In addition, because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common stock. Although convertible securities provide for a stable stream of income, they are subject to the risk that their issuers may default on their obligations. Convertible securities also offer the potential for capital appreciation through the conversion feature, although there can be no assurance of capital appreciation because securities prices fluctuate. Convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible securities of similar quality because of the potential for capital appreciation.
- *IPO risk.* The prices of securities purchased in IPOs can be very volatile. The effect of IPOs on the fund's performance depends on a variety of factors, including the number of IPOs the fund invests in relative to the size of the fund and whether and to what extent a security purchased in an IPO appreciates or depreciates in value. As a fund's asset base increases, IPOs often have a diminished effect on such fund's performance.
- *ETF and other investment company risk.* To the extent the fund invests in pooled investment vehicles, such as ETFs and other investment companies, the fund will be affected by the investment policies, practices and performance of such entities in direct proportion to the amount of assets the fund has invested therein. The risks of investing in other investment companies, including ETFs, typically reflect the risks associated with the types of instruments in which the investment companies invest. When the fund invests in an ETF or other investment company, shareholders of the fund will bear indirectly their proportionate share of the expenses of the ETF or other investment company (including management fees) in addition to the expenses of the fund. ETFs are exchange-traded investment companies that are, in many cases, designed to provide investment results corresponding to an index. The value of the underlying securities can fluctuate in response to activities of individual companies or in response to general market and/or economic conditions. Additional risks of investments in ETFs include: (i) the market price of an ETF's shares may trade at a discount to its net asset value; (ii) an active trading market for an ETF's shares may not develop or be maintained; or (iii) trading may be halted if the listing exchanges' officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are delisted from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts trading generally. The fund will incur brokerage costs when purchasing and selling shares of ETFs.
- *Securities lending risk.* The fund may lend its portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and other financial institutions. In connection with such loans, the fund will receive collateral from the borrower equal to at least 100% of the value of the loaned securities. If the borrower of the securities fails financially, there could be delays in recovering the loaned securities or exercising rights to the collateral.
- *Temporary investment risk.* Under adverse market conditions, the fund could invest some or all of its assets in U.S. Treasury securities and money market securities. Although the fund would do this for temporary defensive purposes, it could reduce the benefit from any upswing in the market. During such periods, the fund's investments may not be consistent with its principal investment strategy, and the fund may not achieve its investment objective.
- *Large shareholder risk.* The participating insurance companies and their separate accounts are the shareholders of the fund. From time to time, a shareholder may own a substantial number of fund shares. The sale of a large number of shares could impact the fund's net asset value and adversely affect remaining fund shareholders.

## Management

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The investment adviser for the fund is BNY Mellon Investment Adviser, Inc., 240 Greenwich Street, New York, New York 10286. BNYM Investment Adviser manages approximately \$301 billion in 129 mutual fund portfolios. For the

past fiscal year, the fund paid BNYM Investment Adviser an investment advisory fee at the annual rate of 0.75% of the value of the fund's average daily net assets. A discussion regarding the basis for the board's approving the fund's investment advisory agreement with BNYM Investment Adviser is available in the fund's semiannual report for the six-month period ended June 30, 2020. BNYM Investment Adviser is the primary mutual fund business of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (BNY Mellon), a global investments company dedicated to helping its clients manage and service their financial assets throughout the investment lifecycle. Whether providing financial services for institutions, corporations or individual investors, BNY Mellon delivers informed investment management and investment services in 35 countries. BNY Mellon is a leading investment management and investment services company, uniquely focused to help clients manage and move their financial assets in the rapidly changing global marketplace. BNY Mellon has \$41.1 trillion in assets under custody and administration and \$2.2 trillion in assets under management. BNY Mellon is the corporate brand of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. BNY Mellon Investment Management is one of the world's leading investment management organizations, and one of the top U.S. wealth managers, encompassing BNY Mellon's affiliated investment management firms, wealth management services and global distribution companies. Additional information is available at [www.bnymellon.com](http://www.bnymellon.com).

The asset management philosophy of BNYM Investment Adviser is based on the belief that discipline and consistency are important to investment success. For each fund, BNYM Investment Adviser seeks to establish clear guidelines for portfolio management and to be systematic in making decisions. This approach is designed to provide each fund with a distinct, stable identity.

Investment decisions for the fund are made by a team of portfolio managers employed by BNYM Investment Adviser and Mellon Investments Corporation, an affiliate of BNYM Investment Adviser. The team members who are jointly and primarily responsible for managing the fund's portfolio are Patrick Kent, CFA, CMT and James Boyd, CFA. Mr. Kent has served as lead portfolio manager of the fund since March 2019. Mr. Boyd has been a primary portfolio manager of the fund since June 2011. Mr. Kent is an executive vice president and a senior portfolio manager. He is the lead portfolio manager for the opportunistic value strategies and head of the small mid cap equity research team at Mellon. He has been employed by Mellon since February 2019, and by BNYM Investment Adviser since March 2019. Prior to joining Mellon, Mr. Kent was a portfolio manager at Wellington Management, which he joined in 2011. Mr. Boyd is a managing director and a senior portfolio manager at Mellon. He has been employed by Mellon or a predecessor company of Mellon since 2005, and by BNYM Investment Adviser since 2008. Messrs. Kent and Boyd manage the fund in their capacity as employees of BNYM Investment Adviser.

The fund's Statement of Additional Information (SAI) provides additional portfolio manager information, including compensation, other accounts managed and ownership of fund shares.

BNY Mellon Securities Corporation (BNYMSC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of BNYM Investment Adviser, serves as distributor of the fund and of the other funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds. Any Rule 12b-1 fees and shareholder services fees, as applicable, are paid to BNYMSC for financing the sale and distribution of fund shares and for providing shareholder account service and maintenance, respectively. BNYM Investment Adviser or BNYMSC may provide cash payments out of its own resources to financial intermediaries that sell shares of funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds or provide other services. Such payments are separate from any sales charges, 12b-1 fees and/or shareholder services fees or other expenses that may be paid by a fund to those financial intermediaries. Because those payments are not made by fund shareholders or the fund, the fund's total expense ratio will not be affected by any such payments. These payments may be made to financial intermediaries, including affiliates, that provide shareholder servicing, sub-administration, recordkeeping and/or sub-transfer agency services, marketing support and/or access to sales meetings, sales representatives and management representatives of the financial intermediary. Cash compensation also may be paid from BNYM Investment Adviser's or BNYMSC's own resources to financial intermediaries for inclusion of a fund on a sales list, including a preferred or select sales list or in other sales programs. These payments sometimes are referred to as "revenue sharing." From time to time, BNYM Investment Adviser or BNYMSC also may provide cash or non-cash compensation to financial intermediaries or their representatives in the form of occasional gifts; occasional meals, tickets or other entertainment; support for due diligence trips; educational conference sponsorships; support for recognition programs; technology or infrastructure support; and other forms of cash or non-cash compensation permissible under broker-dealer regulations. In some cases, these payments or compensation may create an incentive for a financial intermediary or its employees to recommend or sell shares of the fund to you. This potential conflict of interest may be addressed by policies, procedures or practices that are adopted by the financial intermediary. As there may be many different policies, procedures or practices adopted by different intermediaries to address the manner in which compensation is earned through the sale of investments or the provision of related services, the compensation rates and other payment arrangements that may apply to a financial intermediary and its representatives may vary by intermediary. Please contact your financial representative for details about any payments they or their firm may receive in connection with the sale of fund shares or the provision of services to the fund.

The fund, BNYM Investment Adviser and BNYMSC have each adopted a code of ethics that permits its personnel, subject to such code, to invest in securities, including securities that may be purchased or held by the fund. Each code of ethics restricts the personal securities transactions of employees, and requires portfolio managers and other investment personnel to comply with the code's preclearance and disclosure procedures. The primary purpose of the respective codes is to ensure that personal trading by employees is done in a manner that does not disadvantage the fund or other client accounts.

# Shareholder Guide

## Your Investment

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Fund shares may be purchased or sold (redeemed) by separate accounts of participating insurance companies. Policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company for more information about buying or selling fund shares.

Service shares are subject to an annual Rule 12b-1 fee of 0.25% paid to the fund's distributor for distribution, advertising and marketing, and servicing and/or maintaining accounts of holders of Service shares. Because the Rule 12b-1 fee is paid out of the fund's assets on an ongoing basis, over time it will increase the cost of your investment and may cost you more than paying other types of sales charges.

BNYM Investment Adviser calculates fund net asset values (NAVs) as of the scheduled close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) (usually 4:00 p.m. Eastern time) on days the NYSE is scheduled to be open for regular business. Your order will be priced at the next NAV calculated after your order is received in proper form by the fund's transfer agent or other authorized entity. "Proper form" refers to completion of an account application (if applicable), satisfaction of requirements in this section (subject to "Shareholder Guide—General Policies") and any applicable conditions in "Additional Information About How to Redeem Shares" in the SAI. Authorized entities other than the fund's transfer agent may apply different conditions for the satisfaction of "proper form" requirements. For more information, consult a representative of your financial intermediary. When calculating NAVs, BNYM Investment Adviser values equity investments on the basis of market quotations or official closing prices. BNYM Investment Adviser generally values fixed-income investments based on values supplied by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. The pricing service's procedures are reviewed under the general supervision of the board. If market quotations or official closing prices or valuations from a pricing service are not readily available, or are determined not to reflect accurately fair value, the fund may value those investments at fair value as determined in accordance with procedures approved by the fund's board. Fair value of investments may be determined by the fund's board, its pricing committee or its valuation committee in good faith using such information as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Under certain circumstances, the fair value of foreign equity securities will be provided by an independent pricing service. Using fair value to price investments may result in a value that is different from a security's most recent closing price and from the prices used by other mutual funds to calculate their NAVs. Over-the-counter derivative instruments generally will be valued based on values supplied by an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. Futures contracts will be valued at the most recent settlement price. Forward currency contracts will be valued using the forward rate obtained from an independent pricing service approved by the fund's board. ETFs will be valued at their market price. Foreign securities held by the fund may trade on days when the fund does not calculate its NAV and thus may affect the fund's NAV on days when investors will not be able to purchase or sell (redeem) fund shares.

Investments in certain types of thinly traded securities may provide short-term traders arbitrage opportunities with respect to the fund's shares. For example, arbitrage opportunities may exist when trading in a portfolio security or securities is halted and does not resume, or the market on which such securities are traded closes before the fund calculates its NAV. If short-term investors in the fund were able to take advantage of these arbitrage opportunities, they could dilute the NAV of fund shares held by long-term investors. Portfolio valuation policies can serve to reduce arbitrage opportunities available to short-term traders, but there is no assurance that such valuation policies will prevent dilution of the fund's NAV by short-term traders. While the fund has a policy regarding frequent trading, it too may not be completely effective to prevent short-term NAV arbitrage trading, particularly in regard to omnibus accounts. Please see "Shareholder Guide — General Policies" for further information about the fund's frequent trading policy.

Redemption proceeds normally will be wired to the participating insurance company within one business day after the request is received in proper form. Payment of redemption proceeds may take longer and may take up to seven days after the order is received in proper form, particularly during periods of stressed market conditions or very large redemptions or excessive trading.

The processing of redemptions may be suspended, and the delivery of redemption proceeds may be delayed beyond seven days, depending on the circumstances, for any period: (i) during which the NYSE is closed (other than on holidays or weekends), or during which trading on the NYSE is restricted; (ii) when an emergency exists that makes the

disposal of securities owned by the fund or the determination of the fair value of the fund's net assets not reasonably practicable; or (iii) as permitted by order of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the protection of fund shareholders. For these purposes, the Securities and Exchange Commission determines the conditions under which trading shall be deemed to be restricted and an emergency shall be deemed to exist.

Under normal circumstances, the fund expects to meet redemption requests by using cash it holds in its portfolio or selling portfolio securities to generate cash. In addition, the fund, and certain other funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds, may draw upon an unsecured credit facility for temporary or emergency purposes to meet redemption requests. The fund also reserves the right to pay redemption proceeds in securities rather than cash (i.e., "redeem in-kind"), to the extent the composition of the fund's investment portfolio enables it to do so. Generally, a redemption in-kind may be made under the following circumstances: (1) BNYM Investment Adviser determines that a redemption in-kind (i) is more advantageous to the fund (e.g., due to advantageous tax consequences or lower transaction costs) than selling/purchasing portfolio securities, (ii) will not favor the redeeming shareholder to the detriment of any other shareholder or the fund and (iii) is in the best interests of the fund; (2) to manage liquidity risk (i.e., the risk that the fund could not meet redemption requests without significant dilution of remaining investors' interests in the fund); (3) in stressed market conditions; or (4) subject to the approval of the fund's board in other circumstances identified by BNYM Investment Adviser. Securities distributed in connection with any such redemption in-kind are expected to generally represent a pro rata portion of assets held by the fund immediately prior to the redemption in an amount equal to the value of the shares redeemed, with adjustments as may be necessary in connection with, for example, certain derivatives, restricted securities, odd lots or fractional shares. Any securities distributed in-kind will remain exposed to market risk until sold, and transaction costs may be incurred when selling the securities.

Participating insurance companies will provide pass-through voting privileges to all policyowners so long as the Securities and Exchange Commission continues to interpret the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as requiring pass-through voting privileges for policyowners. Participating insurance companies will vote by proxy, in the same proportions as the voting instructions received from policyowners: (1) fund shares as to which no timely instructions are received; (2) fund shares owned exclusively by the relevant participating insurance company or its affiliates; and (3) fund shares held in a separate account representing charges imposed by the relevant participating insurance company. As a result of this proportionate voting policy, the voting of a small number of policyowners may determine whether a proposal is approved, depending on the number of shares attributable to policyowners that provide instructions and to policyowners that do not. Additional information regarding voting instruction rights is provided in the prospectus or statement of additional information for the VA contracts or VLI policies.

## General Policies

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**The fund is designed for long-term investors.** Frequent purchases, redemptions and exchanges may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm fund performance by diluting the value of fund shares and increasing brokerage and administrative costs. As a result, BNYM Investment Adviser and the fund's board have adopted a policy of discouraging excessive trading, short-term market timing and other abusive trading practices (frequent trading) that could adversely affect the fund or its operations. BNYM Investment Adviser and the fund will not enter into arrangements with any person or group to permit frequent trading. The fund also reserves the right to refuse any purchase or exchange request, including those from any participating insurance company, individual or group who, in BNYM Investment Adviser's view, is likely to engage in frequent trading.

Transactions in fund shares are processed by the participating insurance companies using omnibus accounts that aggregate the trades of multiple policyowners. BNYM Investment Adviser's ability to monitor the trading activity of these policyowners is limited because their individual transactions in fund shares are not disclosed to the fund. Accordingly, BNYM Investment Adviser relies to a significant degree on the participating insurance company to detect and deter frequent trading. The agreement with the participating insurance company includes obligations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws. All participating insurance companies have been sent written reminders of their obligations under the agreements, specifically highlighting rules relating to trading fund shares. Further, all participating insurance companies have been requested in writing to notify BNYM Investment Adviser immediately if, for any reason, they cannot meet their commitment to make fund shares available in accordance with the terms of the prospectus and relevant rules and regulations.

BNYM Investment Adviser supplements the surveillance processes in place at participating insurance companies by monitoring total purchases and redemptions of fund shares on a periodic basis. If BNYM Investment Adviser identifies patterns that may be indicative of frequent trading of large amounts, BNYM Investment Adviser contacts the participating insurance company for assistance in disaggregating selected omnibus trades into their component parts. When this process identifies multiple roundtrips (i.e., an investment that is substantially liquidated within 60 days), BNYM Investment Adviser instructs the participating insurance company to temporarily or permanently bar such policyowner's future purchases of fund shares if BNYM Investment Adviser concludes the policyowner is likely to

engage in frequent trading. BNYM Investment Adviser also may instruct the participating insurance company to apply these restrictions across all accounts under common ownership, control or perceived affiliation. In all instances, BNYM Investment Adviser seeks to make these determinations to the best of its abilities in a manner that it believes is consistent with shareholder interests.

In addition to applying restrictions on future purchases or exchanges, BNYM Investment Adviser or the participating insurance company may cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the business day following the transaction if the participating insurance company's surveillance system identifies the account as one that is likely to engage in frequent trading. BNYM Investment Adviser may also instruct the participating insurance company to cancel or reverse the purchase or exchange on the following business day if the trade represents a significant amount of the fund's assets and BNYM Investment Adviser has concluded that the account is likely to engage in frequent trading.

To the extent the fund significantly invests in foreign securities traded on markets that close before the fund calculates its NAV, events that influence the value of these foreign securities may occur after the close of these foreign markets and before the fund calculates its NAV. As a result, certain policyowners may seek to trade fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of these foreign securities at the time the fund calculates its NAV (referred to as price arbitrage). This type of frequent trading may dilute the value of fund shares held by other policyowners. The fund has adopted procedures designed to adjust closing market prices of foreign equity securities under certain circumstances to reflect what it believes to be their fair value.

To the extent the fund significantly invests in thinly traded securities, certain policyowners may seek to trade fund shares in an effort to benefit from their understanding of the value of these securities (referred to as price arbitrage). Any such frequent trading strategies may interfere with efficient management of the fund's portfolio to a greater degree than funds that invest in highly liquid securities, in part because the fund may have difficulty selling these portfolio securities at advantageous times or prices to satisfy large and/or frequent redemption requests. Any successful price arbitrage may also cause dilution in the value of fund shares held by other policyowners.

Although the fund's frequent trading and fair valuation policies and procedures are designed to discourage market timing and excessive trading, none of these tools alone, nor all of them together, completely eliminates the potential for frequent trading.

## **Distributions and Taxes**

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Each share class will generate a different dividend because each has different expenses. The fund earns dividends, interest and other income from its investments, and distributes this income (less expenses) to shareholders as dividends. The fund also realizes capital gains from its investments, and distributes these gains (less any losses) to shareholders as capital gain distributions. The fund normally pays dividends and capital gain distributions, if any, annually. Fund dividends and capital gain distributions will be reinvested in the fund unless the participating insurance company instructs otherwise.

Since the fund's shareholders are the participating insurance companies and their separate accounts, the tax treatment of dividends and distributions will depend on the tax status of the participating insurance company. Accordingly, no discussion is included as to the federal personal income tax consequences to policyowners. For this information, policyowners should consult the prospectus of the separate account of the participating insurance company or their tax advisers.

Participating insurance companies should consult their tax advisers about federal, state and local tax consequences.

## **Exchange Privilege**

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Policyowners may exchange shares of a class for shares of other funds offered by the VA contracts or VLI policies through the insurance company separate accounts subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectuses of such VA contracts or VLI policies. Policyowners should refer to the applicable insurance company prospectus for more information on exchanging fund shares.

## Financial Highlights

These financial highlights describe the performance of the fund's shares for the fiscal periods indicated. "Total return" shows how much your investment in the fund would have increased (or decreased) during each period, assuming you had reinvested all dividends and distributions. These financial highlights have been derived from the fund's financial statements, which have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, whose report, along with the fund's financial statements, is included in the annual report, which is available upon request. Keep in mind that fees and charges imposed by participating insurance companies, which are not reflected in the tables, would reduce the investment returns that are shown.

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>				
<b>Initial Shares</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	41.78	41.20	60.91	49.44	46.02
Investment Operations:					
Investment income (loss)-net <sup>a</sup>	.06	.26	(.06)	(.12)	(.02)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	8.07	8.35	(9.48)	12.21	7.07
Total from Investment Operations	8.13	8.61	(9.54)	12.09	7.05
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income-net	(.25)	-	-	-	-
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	-	(8.03)	(10.17)	(.62)	(3.63)
Total Distributions	(.25)	(8.03)	(10.17)	(.62)	(3.63)
Net asset value, end of period	49.66	41.78	41.20	60.91	49.44
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	<b>19.89</b>	<b>21.78</b>	<b>(19.08)</b>	<b>24.69</b>	<b>17.07</b>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	.85	.84	.84	.85	.86
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	.16	.64	(.12)	(.22)	(.05)
Portfolio Turnover Rate	68.67	65.42	67.90	70.11	88.08
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	286,250	260,321	146,730	189,582	162,171

<sup>a</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.

	<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>				
<b>Service Shares</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Per Share Data (\$):</b>					
Net asset value, beginning of period	39.65	39.53	58.98	48.01	44.90
Investment Operations:					
Investment income (loss)-net <sup>a</sup>	(.03)	.16	(.19)	(.25)	(.13)
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investments	7.68	7.99	(9.09)	11.84	6.87
Total from Investment Operations	7.65	8.15	(9.28)	11.59	6.74
Distributions:					
Dividends from investment income-net	(.15)	-	-	-	-
Dividends from net realized gain on investments	-	(8.03)	(10.17)	(.62)	(3.63)
Total Distributions	(.15)	(8.03)	(10.17)	(.62)	(3.63)
Net asset value, end of period	47.15	39.65	39.53	58.98	48.01
<b>Total Return (%)</b>	<b>19.58</b>	<b>21.49</b>	<b>(19.29)</b>	<b>24.37</b>	<b>16.79</b>
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data (%):</b>					
Ratio of total expenses to average net assets	1.10	1.09	1.09	1.10	1.11
Ratio of net investment income (loss) to average net assets	(.09)	.41	(.37)	(.47)	(.30)
Portfolio Turnover Rate	68.67	65.42	67.90	70.11	88.08
Net Assets, end of period (\$ x 1,000)	19,939	17,628	15,291	20,322	17,353

<sup>a</sup> Based on average shares outstanding.



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# For More Information

## Opportunistic Small Cap Portfolio

### A series of BNY Mellon Variable Investment Fund

More information on this fund is available free upon request, including the following:

#### Annual/Semiannual Report

The fund's annual and semiannual reports describe the fund's performance, list portfolio holdings and contain a letter from the fund's manager discussing recent market conditions, economic trends and fund strategies that significantly affected the fund's performance during the period covered by the report. The fund's most recent annual and semiannual reports are available at [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com).

#### Statement of Additional Information (SAI)

The SAI provides more details about the fund and its policies. A current SAI is available at [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com) and is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SAI, as amended or supplemented from time to time, is incorporated by reference (and is legally considered part of this prospectus).

#### Portfolio Holdings

Funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds (except Dreyfus money market funds) generally disclose, at [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com), (1) complete portfolio holdings as of each month-end with a one month lag and as of each calendar quarter end with a 15-day lag; (2) top 10 holdings as of each month-end with a 10-day lag; and (3) from time to time, certain security-specific performance attribution data as of a month-end, with a 10-day lag. From time to time a fund may make available certain portfolio characteristics, such as allocations, performance- and risk-related statistics, portfolio-level statistics and non-security specific attribution analyses, on request. For funds in the BNY Mellon Family of Funds (except Dreyfus money market funds), portfolio holdings will remain on the website for a period of six months and any security-specific performance attribution data will remain on the website for varying periods up to six months, provided that portfolio holdings will remain until the fund files its Form N-PORT or Form N-CSR for the period that includes the dates of the posted holdings. Dreyfus money market funds generally disclose, at [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com), their complete schedule of holdings daily. Each Dreyfus money market fund's daily posting of its complete portfolio holdings will remain available on the website for five months.

A complete description of the fund's policies and procedures with respect to the disclosure of the fund's portfolio securities is available in the fund's SAI and at [www.im.bnymellon.com](http://www.im.bnymellon.com).

#### To Obtain Information

**By telephone.** Call 1-800-373-9387 (inside the U.S. only)

**By mail.**

The BNY Mellon Family of Funds  
144 Glenn Curtiss Boulevard  
Uniondale, NY 11556-0144  
Attn: Institutional Services Department

**On the Internet.** Certain fund documents can be viewed online or downloaded from:

SEC: [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov)

Dreyfus money market funds: [www.dreyfus.com](http://www.dreyfus.com)

This prospectus does not constitute an offer or solicitation in any state or jurisdiction in which, or to any person to whom, such offering or solicitation may not lawfully be made.

SEC file number: 811-05125