

**TIAA-CREF Individual &  
Institutional Services, LLC**  
Statement of Financial Condition  
December 31, 2015

# TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC

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## Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Managers of  
TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of financial condition presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC (the "Company") at December 31, 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit of this statement in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP*

February 25, 2016

**TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC**  
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**December 31, 2015**

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**Assets**

Cash	\$ 139,455,544
Cash segregated under regulatory requirements	53,925,433
Advisory fees receivable	29,314,060
Receivable from clearing broker	2,540,356
Due from affiliated entities	10,136,271
Receivable from Non-proprietary funds	810,207
Other assets	1,011
Total assets	<u>\$ 236,182,882</u>

**Liabilities and Member's Capital**

Due to affiliated entities	\$ 82,296,043
Other liabilities	717,057
Total liabilities	<u>83,013,100</u>
Member's capital	<u>153,169,782</u>
Total liabilities and member's capital	<u>\$ 236,182,882</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement of financial condition.

# **TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC**

## **Notes to Statement of Financial Condition**

### **December 31, 2015**

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#### **1. Organization**

TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC (“Services”) was incorporated on September 4, 1990 as a membership corporation and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America (“TIAA”), a legal reserve life insurance company established under the insurance laws of the State of New York in 1918. Services is a registered broker-dealer under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Effective January 1, 2004, Services was converted from a membership corporation to a single member limited liability company (“LLC”).

Services maintains a contractual arrangement with its affiliate, Teachers Personal Investors Services, Inc. (“TPIS”) to distribute shares of various mutual funds on a retail basis for which TPIS is the principal underwriter.

Services offers brokerage services to individuals as an introducing broker clearing on a fully disclosed basis through Pershing LLC. Services also offers investment advisory services to individuals maintaining accounts at Pershing LLC for which it is separately compensated.

Services maintains a Distribution Agreement with TIAA-CREF Life Insurance Company (“T-C Life”) under which Services is the principal underwriter and distributor for variable annuity, variable universal life, and market value adjustment annuity products offered by T-C Life.

Services maintains a Distribution Agreement with TIAA under which Services is the principal underwriter and distributor for variable annuities issued by TIAA.

Services maintains distribution agreements with numerous unaffiliated mutual fund groups, and collaborates with TIAA to offer direct sales of selected mutual fund investments (“non-proprietary Funds”) to customers of TIAA. Services receives distribution fees on the sale of these non-proprietary funds.

Services maintains a Phone Center and Field Support Agreement with TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing Inc. (“TFI”) under which Services is compensated for actual costs incurred for services it provides to TFI in its role as program manager for various state tuition savings plans.

Various cash disbursements for Services are made by TIAA. TIAA is reimbursed by Services in accordance with Cash Disbursement and Reimbursement Agreements between Services and TIAA. TIAA allocates certain of its costs and expenses, as well as certain direct costs, to Services. These costs and expenses primarily relate to personnel, facilities, computer equipment and software, office equipment and supplies, utilities, advertising and sales materials.

#### **2. Significant Accounting Policies**

##### **Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying Statement of Financial Condition has been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“GAAP”). In preparing this statement of financial condition, Services has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through February 25, 2016, the date the statement of financial condition was available for issue.

# TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC

## Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

### December 31, 2015

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#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the Statement of Financial Condition in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the Statement of Financial Condition. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### **3. New Accounting Pronouncements**

In August 2014, the FASB issued ASU 2014-15 *Presentation of Financial Statements-Going Concern (Subtopic 205-40)* ("ASU 2014-15") will require an entity to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the entity's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the statement of financial condition is issued (or within one year after the date that the statement of financial condition is available to be issued). Management's evaluation should be based on relevant conditions and events that are known and reasonably knowable at the date that the statement of financial condition is available for issue. If management determines there is substantial doubt then additional disclosures will need to be included in the accompanying notes to the statement of financial condition. ASU 2014-15 is effective for all entities for the annual reporting period ending after December 15, 2016 and for annual periods and interim periods thereafter. Services will adopt the new guidance beginning with the December 31, 2016 financial statements.

#### **4. Cash**

Approximately 94% of Services' cash is held at State Street Bank and Trust Company. The remaining 6% is held at JPMorgan Chase & Co. All of Services' cash segregated under regulatory requirements is held at US Bank. Financial instruments that potentially subject Services to a concentration of risk consist principally of cash balances deposited into one financial institution, which, at times, may exceed federally insured limits. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation currently insures cash balances up to \$250,000. Services' management monitors these balances to mitigate the exposure of risk due to concentration and has not experienced any losses from such concentration.

#### **5. Income Taxes**

Services is a single member LLC and, as such, is treated as a division of TIAA for federal income tax purposes. Because of its status Services is disregarded as a separate entity for income tax purposes and thus does not record income taxes in its financial statements.

Services is not a legal entity for tax purposes and not a member in the TIAA tax sharing agreement or any other formal tax sharing arrangement.

Services is subject to various state taxes based on revenues or business license taxes. Revenue based taxes are partially subject to reimbursement by affiliates under agreements to perform services "at cost." In 2015, accrued state tax liability was \$430,000; which was included in other liabilities and distribution expenses. A receivable for \$240,000 was included in due from affiliated entities related to reimbursement to be received.

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## Notes to Statement of Financial Condition

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#### 6. Special Reserve Bank Account

Cash of \$53,925,433, which is recorded in the Statement of Financial Condition as cash segregated under regulatory requirements, has been segregated in a special reserve bank account for the exclusive benefit of customers under Rule 15c3-3 of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Cash held temporarily for customers is related to remittances awaiting final instructions or documentation from the customer. Services includes cash and securities held temporarily for customers and certain other associated items in determining the amount required to be held as segregated cash under Rule 15c3-3 of the SEC.

#### 7. Minimum Net Capital Requirements

As a registered broker-dealer, Services is subject to the minimum net capital requirements pursuant to the Uniform Net Capital Rule 15c3-1 of the SEC (the "Rule"). Under the Rule, Services is required to maintain minimum net capital, as defined under the rule, equal to the greater of \$250,000 or 6 2/3 percent of aggregate indebtedness, as defined under the rule. At December 31, 2015, Services had net capital of \$117,701,897, which exceeded required net capital by \$112,289,593, and a ratio of aggregate indebtedness to net capital of 0.69 to 1.

#### 8. Commitments and Concentration of Credit Risk

Services offers discount brokerage services through Pershing, LLC (the "Clearing Broker") on a fully disclosed basis. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement between Services and the Clearing Broker, the Clearing Broker has the right to charge Services for losses that result from a customer's failure to complete a purchase or sale transaction.

The maximum potential liability of Services could be equal to the aggregate trading volume of its customers' transactions during the settlement period; however, this amount cannot be estimated due to the volatility in daily trading volumes. The liability is minimized by the fact that, in the event of nonperformance by the customer, the underlying security would be transferred to Services who could, in turn, immediately liquidate the position, limiting the loss exposure to the market fluctuation in the underlying price of the security. Additionally, Services may seek recourse from the customer by reimbursing itself from any cash or securities in the defaulting customers' account. At December 31, 2015, Services has recorded no liability with regard to customer transactions. During the year ended December 31, 2015, Services experienced de minimis net losses as a result of its customers' failure to fulfill any purchase or sale transactions.

Services' has retail brokerage clients who conduct securities transactions on a margin basis. In margin transactions, credit is extended to customers by the Clearing Broker subject to various regulatory and internal margin requirements. As an introducing broker, it is Services' responsibility to collect initial margin requirements from its clients and to monitor the adequacy of such collateral on an ongoing basis. In this regard, Services may require the deposit of additional collateral or may reduce security positions as necessary to satisfy regulatory and internal requirements. Margin transactions may expose Services to credit and market risk in the event a client fails to satisfy its obligations. In that event, Services may be required to purchase or sell financial instruments at current market prices to satisfy the customer's obligation to the Clearing Broker. The maximum amount of Services's potential exposure to reimburse the Clearing Broker on margin accounts may fluctuate daily depending on the amount of secured borrowings requested by customers, and may not be readily estimated due to volatility in the amount of such borrowings. No amount is accrued in these statement of financial conditions for potential reimbursements to the Clearing Broker on margin loans extended to Services's customers. Services mitigates this risk by revaluing collateral

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at current prices, limiting portfolio concentration and by monitoring compliance with credit limits and industry regulations.

Services has established a liability of \$286,047 for the anticipated costs of open regulatory actions or litigation, and is included in other liabilities. In the opinion of management, the ultimate disposition of such matters will not have a material adverse impact on Services's financial position, net capital, or results of operations.

#### **9. Related Party Transactions**

Services incurs expenses for distribution activities related to the issuance of variable annuity contracts by the College Retirement Equities Fund ("CREF") and on behalf of the TIAA Real Estate Account ("REA"). Such activities performed by Services are at cost, pursuant to a Principal Underwriting and Administrative Services Agreement with CREF and a Distribution Agreement with REA. Fees are earned by Services based on a percentage of CREF's and REA's daily net assets, adjusted to actual costs quarterly, based on actual amounts charged to Services by TIAA.

Services distributes shares of various affiliated mutual funds, tuition savings plans and insurance products on a retail basis under agreements with TPIS, TFI, T-C Life, and TIAA. Additionally, Services distributes mutual funds to participants of TIAA and CREF as well as offers brokerage services to customers that are cleared through Pershing LLC. At December 31, 2015, due from affiliated entities includes \$2,968,130 from CREF, \$1,469,648 from TPIS, \$2,171,187 from TFI, \$1,242,968 from T-C Life, and \$455,751 from REA related to the distribution of insurance products, mutual funds, and tuition savings plans.

Virtually all cash disbursements for operating expenses incurred by Services are paid by TIAA, which is reimbursed by Services in accordance with Cash Disbursement and Reimbursement Agreements with TIAA. In accordance with the agreements between Services and TIAA, Services is not obligated to pay TIAA for any expenses until and unless the associated revenue is received. At December 31, 2015, \$77,303,138 is due to TIAA and affiliated entities related to such expenses.

Services has an agreement with TIAA-CREF Trust Company ("Trust Company") under which the Trust Company provides advisory services on customer accounts and custodial services on certain types of customer accounts for Services. At December 31, 2015, \$4,992,904 is due to affiliated entities related to this expense.

Services also has an agreement with the Trust Company under which Trust Company provides bank sweep account services for customer accounts and pays Services administrative service fees for assets swept. At December 31, 2015, due from affiliated entities includes \$1,828,586 related to the administrative services performed.