

# Fidelity American High Yield Fund

## Quarterly Investment Review

December 31, 2023

Contents

OVERVIEW ..... 3

QUARTERLY FUND COMMENTARY ..... 5

ANNUAL FUND COMMENTARY ..... 5

POSITIONING AND OUTLOOK ..... 5

INVESTMENT PROCESS ..... 6

## Overview

**INCEPTION DATE:** October 01, 2003  
**BENCHMARK:** ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index  
**FUND MANAGER:** Harley J Lank, Alexandre Karam

### OBJECTIVE

The Fund aims to achieve a combination of a high level of income and the potential for capital gains by investing primarily in higher yielding securities issued by U.S. companies.

### APPROACH

- Offers the potential for higher yield and capital growth than an investment-grade fixed-income fund.
- Can enhance diversification in a fixed-income portfolio.
- Leverages Fidelity's global resources and expertise in high-income investing.

### PERFORMANCE RETURNS (%)

	Cumulative					Annualized				
	Q1 2023	Q2 2023	Q3 2023	Q4 2023	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	Since Inception
Fidelity American High Yield Fund - Series O	3.43	(0.50)	3.40	3.57	10.21	10.21	5.65	5.69	7.64	7.12
ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index	3.59	(0.62)	2.72	4.42	10.43	10.43	3.18	4.46	6.79	6.60
Relative Return	(0.16)	0.12	0.68	(0.85)	(0.22)	(0.22)	2.47	1.23	0.85	0.52

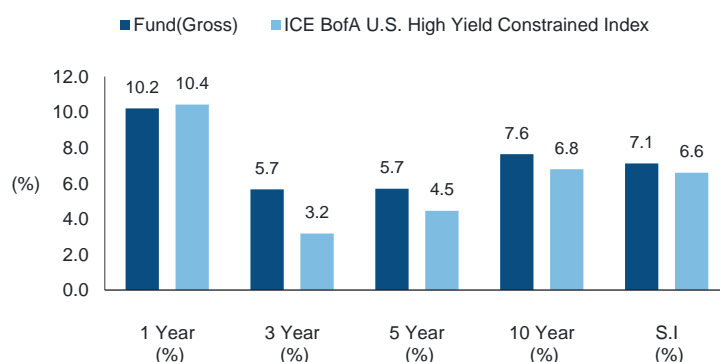
Performance returns are unaudited and time-weighted.

Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

### Cumulative Quarterly Performance



### Annualized as of December 31, 2023



## Overview

### PERFORMANCE RETURNS (%): CALENDAR YEAR RETURNS

	Calendar Year Returns									
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Fidelity American High Yield Fund - Series O	10.21	(1.16)	8.26	1.90	9.73	6.29	1.76	10.65	16.35	13.70
ICE BofA U.S. High Yield Constrained Index	10.43	(4.76)	4.45	4.21	8.63	6.54	0.42	13.42	14.40	11.75
Relative Return	(0.22)	3.60	3.81	(2.31)	1.10	(0.25)	1.34	(2.77)	1.95	1.95

Performance returns are unaudited and time-weighted.

Note: Differences may be due to rounding.

## Quarterly Fund Commentary

- The Fund's security selection in the utility industry and the leisure industry contributed to relative returns over the quarter.
- In the utility industry, investments in Pacific Gas and Electric and in DPL were among the top contributors. In leisure, an investment in New Cotai contributed. In other industries, investments in Community Health Systems also contributed.
- The Fund's security selection in the energy industry and the media industry detracted from relative returns.
- In energy, investments in Denbury and California Resources detracted. In media, an investment in DISH Network was the primary detractor. In other industries, investments in First Quantum Minerals and Citigroup detracted.

## Annual Fund Commentary

- The Fund's security selection in the technology and electronics industry and the services industry contributed to relative returns over the year.
- In technology and electronics, lack of exposure to an American network infrastructure provider and an investment in MicroStrategy contributed. In services, investments in Brand Energy and CoreLogic contributed. In other industries, investments in Vistra Operations and Community Health Systems also contributed.
- The Fund's security selection in the energy industry and the transportation industry detracted from relative returns over the year.
- In energy, investments in Mesquite Energy and Chesapeake Energy detracted. In transportation, an investment in Western Global Airlines detracted. In other industries, investments in Carvana and DISH Network detracted.

## Positioning and Outlook

- Portfolio managers Harley Lank and Alexandre Karam note that high-yield securities had a strong fourth quarter in 2023 – spreads tightened noticeably given the pivot in November by the U.S. Federal Reserve (the Fed).
- During December's Fed meeting, Fed chair Jerome Powell acknowledged that the economy was slowing as expected and signalled interest rate cuts in 2024 following signs of a cooling labour market and slowing inflation.
- Harley and Alexandre note, however, that with a debt maturity wall still in 2025 and beyond, most issuers still have some time before interest expenses increase. The managers believe this backdrop could provide a tailwind for the sector in the short and intermediate terms.
- Upgrades relative to downgrades for the sector remain in line with their long-term averages; the managers therefore do not expect a large spike in defaults in the near term.
- The Fund's largest exposure is to the energy sector. Despite the sector detracting from relative returns in the fourth quarter, the managers remain optimistic because energy provides strong earnings and is structurally underinvested.
- The managers are making few new investments, instead adopting a wait-and-see approach to credit risk-taking.
- Harley and Alexandre have positioned the portfolio neutrally to slightly underweight relative to its benchmark from a risk perspective and remain prepared to take advantage of any volatility that may arise.

## Investment Process

- Fidelity's American High Yield Fund employs an active management approach characterized by high-quality non-investment-grade debt securities, highly diversified portfolio exposures across industries and issuers, and a strict focus on controlling overall absolute and relative portfolio volatility. Company fundamentals are emphasized over yield, with particular focus on cash-flow-generating capability and strong capital structures.
- Portfolio construction is the culmination of the integrated contributions of the analysts and portfolio manager. The portfolio managers, Harley Lank and Alexandre Karam, are responsible for assimilating the recommendations of the research analysts into a portfolio that is diversified and risk-controlled. Individual positions are weighted in accordance with the manager's level of confidence with respect to the issuer's prospects. Consistent with our active investment style, portfolios are constantly monitored to determine whether new or secondary issues that may offer better value should replace existing holdings. Our large research team enables us to cover approximately 80% of the high yield universe on a market capitalization basis, including virtually all new issues brought to the market.
- The foundation of Fidelity's high yield bond investment process is fundamental, bottom-up credit research, combining quantitative and qualitative analysis. Quantitative analysis includes extensive financial modeling to properly assess a company's historical performance and formulating pro forma estimates for future operations. These models help analyze trends such as revenue growth, gross and net profit margins, and cash flow growth. Most importantly, this modeling enables us to determine whether current and future cash flows are sufficient to adequately service the company's liabilities. Qualitatively, our analysts perform extensive bottom-up research and rely on interaction with company management to discuss industry trends, business plans, and earnings and cashflow estimates. This is supplemented through the use of external consultants and industry surveys.
- The security selection process, done on both an absolute and relative basis, has the greatest influence on returns in the investment process. Once our fundamental analysis determines that a company is appealing, we determine whether the company's securities are attractively priced. We analyze the entire capital structure of each issuer ranging from senior bank debt to preferred stock/equity, and will invest where we believe the best risk/reward profile exists. The output of our analysts' research includes internal company ratings as well as comprehensive research that are published on a daily basis. Given our bottom-up focus, specific industries generally are not targeted for investment; however, industry overweighting or underweighting relative to the benchmark may occur when many companies within the same industry offer solid or deteriorating values. Mr. Lank and Mr. Karam reviews the portfolio continuously to ensure that imprudent exposure to individual industries is avoided.

## Disclosures

**Issued by Fidelity Investments Canada ULC ("FIC"). Read this important information carefully before making any investment. Speak with your relationship manager if you have any questions.**

**"Fidelity Investments" and/or "Fidelity" refers collectively to: i) FMR LLC, a US company, and its subsidiaries, such as Fidelity Management & Research Company (FMR Co.) and FIAM LLC ("FIAM"); and ii) Fidelity Investments Canada ULC ("FIC") and its affiliates.**

**Fidelity Investments Canada ULC ("FIC") is a firm claiming compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®). FIC has prepared this presentation for, and only intends to provide it to, institutional and sophisticated investors in one-on-one or comparable presentations. Do not distribute or reproduce this report.**

Commissions, trailing commissions, management fees, brokerage fees and expenses may be associated with investments in mutual funds and ETFs. Please read the mutual fund's or ETF's prospectus, which contains detailed investment information, before investing. The indicated rates of return are historical annual compounded total returns for the period indicated including changes in unit value and reinvestment of distributions. The indicated rates of return do not take into account sales, redemption, distribution or option charges or income taxes payable by any unitholder that would have reduced returns. Mutual funds and ETFs are not guaranteed. Their values change frequently, and investors may experience a gain or a loss. Past performance may not be repeated.

### Risks

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. An investment may be risky and may not be suitable for an investor's goals, objectives and risk tolerance. Investors should be aware that an investment's value may be volatile and any investment involves the risk that you may lose money. Performance results for individual accounts will differ from performance results for composites and representative accounts due to factors such as portfolio size, especially if currently only funded with affiliated fee paying seed capital, timing of investments, market conditions, account objectives and restrictions, and factors specific to a particular investment structure.

The value of a strategy's investments will vary day to day in response to many factors, including in response to adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market or economic developments. The value of an individual security or a particular type of security can be more volatile than the market as a whole and can perform differently from the value of the market as a whole. Nearly all accounts are subject to volatility in foreign exchange markets.

The performance of fixed income strategies will change daily based on changes in interest rates and market conditions and in response to other economic, political or financial developments. Debt securities are sensitive to changes in interest rates depending on their maturity, and may involve the risk that their prices may decline if interest rates rise or, conversely, if interest rates decline, their prices may increase. Debt securities carry the risk of default, prepayment risk and inflation risk. Changes specific to an issuer, which may involve its financial condition or economic environment, can affect the credit quality or value of an issuer's securities. Lower-quality debt securities (those of less than investment grade quality, also referred to as high yield debt securities) and certain types of other securities are more volatile and are often considered to be speculative and involve greater risk due to increased sensitivity to adverse issuer, political, regulatory and market developments, especially in periods of general economic difficulty. The value of mortgage securities may change due to shifts in the market's perception of issuers, changes in interest rates, or regulatory or tax changes.

Derivatives may be volatile and involve significant risk, such as, credit risk, currency risk, leverage risk, counterparty risk and liquidity risk. Using derivatives can disproportionately increase losses and reduce opportunities for gains in certain circumstances. Derivatives may have limited liquidity and may be harder to value, especially in declining markets. Derivatives involve leverage because they can provide investment exposure in an amount exceeding the initial investment. Leverage can magnify investment risks and cause losses to be realized more quickly. A small change in the value of an underlying asset, instrument, or index can lead to a significant loss. Assets segregated to cover these transactions may decline in value and are not available to meet redemptions. Government legislation or regulation could affect the use of these transactions and could limit the ability to pursue such investment strategies.

The performance of international strategies depends upon currency values, political and regulatory environments, and overall economic factors in the countries in which they invest. Foreign markets, particularly emerging markets, can be more volatile than the Canadian market due to increased risks of adverse issuer, political, regulatory, market, or economic developments and can perform differently from the Canadian market. Foreign exchange rates also can be extremely volatile. These risks may be particularly significant for strategies that focus on a single country or region.

The securities, derivatives and currency markets of emerging market countries are generally smaller, less developed, less liquid, and more volatile than the securities, derivatives and currency markets of the United States and other developed markets and disclosure and regulatory standards in many respects are less stringent. There also may be a lower level of monitoring and regulation of markets in emerging market countries and the activities of investors in such markets and enforcement of existing regulations may be extremely limited. Government enforcement of existing market regulations may be limited, and any enforcement may be arbitrary and the results may be difficult to predict. Emerging market countries are more likely than developed market countries to experience political uncertainty and instability, due to factors such as war, terrorism, nationalization, limitations on the removal of funds or other assets, or diplomatic developments that affect investments in these countries. In many cases, governments of emerging market countries continue to exercise significant control over their economies. In addition, there is a heightened possibility of expropriation or confiscatory taxation, imposition of withholding taxes on interest payments, or other similar developments that could affect investments in those countries.

From time to time a manager, analyst or other Fidelity employee may express views regarding a particular company, security, and industry or market sector. The views expressed by any such person are the views of only that individual as of the time expressed and do not necessarily represent the views of Fidelity or any other person in the Fidelity organization. Any such views are subject to change at any time, based upon markets and other conditions, and Fidelity disclaims any responsibility to update such views. These views may not be relied on as investment advice and, because investment decisions for a Fidelity Fund are based on numerous factors, may not be relied on as an indication of trading intent on behalf of any Fidelity Fund.

## Disclosures

Certain statements in this commentary may contain forward-looking statements ("FLS") that are predictive in nature and may include words such as "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "estimates" and similar forward-looking expressions or negative versions thereof. FLS are based on current expectations and projections about future general economic, political and relevant market factors, such as interest, and assuming no changes to applicable tax or other laws or government regulation. Expectations and projections about future events are inherently subject to, among other things, risks and uncertainties, some of which may be unforeseeable and, accordingly, may prove to be incorrect at a future date. FLS are not guarantees of future performance, and actual events could differ materially from those expressed or implied in any FLS. A number of important factors can contribute to these digressions, including, but not limited to, general economic, political and market factors in North America and internationally, interest and foreign exchange rates, global equity and capital markets, business competition and catastrophic events. You should avoid placing any undue reliance on FLS. Further, there is no specific intention of updating any FLS, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

### Performance Data

Performance data is generally presented gross of any fees and expenses, including advisory fees, which when deducted will reduce returns. See the FIC GIPS® Composite Performance Data for performance figures that are net of the maximum investment advisory fee charged any client employing this strategy. Some clients may request a performance fee arrangement, which, if imposed, will also reduce returns when deducted. For additional information about advisory fees related to applicable advisory entities, speak with your relationship manager. All results reflect realized and unrealized appreciation and the reinvestment of dividends and investment income, if applicable. Taxes have not been deducted. In conducting its investment advisory activities, Fidelity Investments Canada ULC utilizes certain assets, resources and investment personnel of other Fidelity entities, which may not claim compliance with the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS®).

The index returns are shown for comparative purposes only. Indexes are unmanaged, and their returns do not include any sales charges or fees, as such costs would lower performance. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

The rate of return shown is used to illustrate the effects of the compound growth rate and is not intended to reflect future values of the fund or returns on investment in any fund.

Certain data and other information in this presentation have been supplied by outside sources and are believed to be reliable as of the date of this document. Data and information from third-party databases, such as those sponsored by eVestment Alliance and Callan, are self-reported by investment management firms that generally pay a subscription fee to use such databases, and the database sponsors do not guarantee or audit the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the data and information provided including any rankings. Rankings or similar data reflect information at the time rankings were retrieved from a third-party database, and such rankings may vary significantly as additional data from managers is reported. FIC has not verified and cannot verify the accuracy of information from outside sources, and potential investors should be aware that such information is subject to change without notice. Information is current as of the date noted.

If you buy other series of Fidelity Funds, the performance will vary, largely due to different fees and expenses.

Third party trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of Fidelity Investments Canada ULC or its affiliated companies. FIC does not provide legal or tax advice and we encourage you to consult your own lawyer, accountant or other advisor before making an investment.