

# Overview

Nicholas Wealth Management provides investment advisory services to individuals and institutions. We use distinct tactics to measure risk and seek to minimize portfolio volatility.

With XFUNDS, our primary research focuses on risk mitigation and income producing securities. The firm's strategies attempt to find non-correlated returns in both up and down-market cycles.

Understanding risk and how it affects portfolios is our mission.







## **Nicholas Fixed Income Alternative ETF**

The Nicholas Fixed Income Alternative ETF (FIAX) is an actively managed ETF that is distinct in the fixed-income space. Through the use of options, the fund can replicate a diversified portfolio of income producing ETFs while seeking to mitigate risk with a core holding in United States treasuries. With this distinct structure, FIAX may have lower correlation to traditional equity and fixed-income asset classes.

# - FIAX Strategy

FIAX consists of 3 components:



## **U.S.** Treasuries

Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets in U.S. Treasury fixed income securities.



# Options spread across multiple ETFs

The Fund's defined risk option premium strategy uses options on ETFs across multiple asset classes (e.g., equities, commodities, fixed income).



# Directional **S&P 500 Exposure**

By creating a directional S&P 500 option position, the Fund can participate in upside movement of the underlying SPY ETF.

## **Strategy**

The Nicholas Fixed Income Alternative ETF (FIAX) Fund is an actively managed exchange-traded fund ("ETF") that seeks to provide income using U.S. Treasury fixed income securities and a "defined risk option premium."



- The Fund's defined risk option premium strategy uses options on ETFs across multiple asset classes (e.g., equities, commodities, fixed income).
- The Fund's option positions will be comprised of vertical credit spreads and vertical debit spreads that aim to capture a premium representing a combination of dividends and growth of the underlying assets.
- Through the defined risk option premium strategy, two options transactions are paired together in order to create a "defined risk" trade that caps the maximum possible gains and losses from the outset.

- Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its net assets in U.S. Treasury fixed income securities.
- The Fund's assets will also be invested in Treasury Bills, cash and cash equivalents to act as collateral for any margin requirements. Due to the nature of the Fund's options strategy, the Fund's Treasury Bills, cash and cash equivalent holdings may comprise 90% or more of the Fund's net assets.
- The Fund will limit the use of leverage by ensuring that the aggregate notional value of the underlying ETFs or indexes (as measured by the strike price of the options) of the put options sold will not exceed the Fund's total net assets.

## **Monthly Dividends**



## **Treasuries**

Laddered treasuries in maturities ranging from 1 month – 2 years+



## **Monthly Income**

Shareholders will receive monthly dividend distributions with the ability to receive additional dividends based on options performance



## **Options**

Selling monthly options to generate additional income



# Not Your Grandpa's Bond Fund



## **U.S Treasury Securities**



U.S. Treasuries are debt obligations issued and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. That backing carries weight due to the federal government's taxing power and the relative size and strength of the U.S. economy. U.S. Treasury securities can provide dependable, steady cash flow and preserve invested principal, if held to maturity.



T-Bill

Short-term
Treasuries, maturing
in 1 year or less

2-10yrs

**T-Note** 

Medium-term
Treasuries, maturing in
2 to 10 years

 $\geq$ 10-30yrs

**T-Bond** 

Long-term Treasuries maturing in 10 to 30 years or longer

## **History of Government Bonds**

- The U.S. Savings Bonds Program Begins
- On February 1, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation that allowed the U.S. Department of the Treasury to sell a new type of security, the U.S. Savings Bond. One month later, the first Series A Savings Bond was issued. Its low purchase price of \$18.75, with a face value of \$25, eventually led the bond along with the subsequent B (1936), C (1938) and D (1941) bond to be nicknamed "the baby bond."
- US Government Bonds played a fundamental role in war effort. Before the war, America's military was small, and its weapons were obsolescent. The military needed to purchase thousands of ships, tens of thousands of airplanes, hundreds of thousands of vehicles, millions of guns, and hundreds of millions of rounds of ammunition.
- Government bonds helped finance the war, fund our allies, embargo our enemies, stabilize the economy, and plan the postwar return to peacetime activities.



## **Government Bonds**

# Full faith and credit of the US Government



## **Options Overlay**

Options writing is an attractive way to generate income with a defined risk exposure. By creating a directional S&P 500 option position, the Fund can participate in upside movement of the underlying SPY ETF.



## **Stability**

Options can be a very efficient way to replicate the stability of yield based and bond ETFs in a portfolio. At times, options can provide *more* price stability than the underlying ETFs themselves



## **Time Decay**

Time decay of options can capture returns that mirror dividends inherent in option prices



## **Replicate**

Options can replicate the dividend capture of higher yielding ETFs

# - FIAX Structure







Options Overlay



Nicholas Fixed Income Alternative ETF

## **Vertical Option Spreads**

FIAX seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily by entering into options transactions that are either vertical credit spread transactions or vertical debit spread transactions.



In each vertical spread transaction, the Fund would simultaneously purchase and write (sell) put or call options on other ETFs or securities indices.

"Vertical" means that the options purchased and written are in the same expiration cycle on the same underlying asset, but at different exercise ("strike") prices.



To initiate a debit spread transaction, the Fund would buy an option closer to the money and sell another option further out-of-themoney.

To initiate a credit spread transaction, the Fund would do the opposite — buy an option further from the money while selling another option closer to the money.

An "out of the money" call option has a strike price that is higher than the market price of the underlying asset.

An "out of the money" put option has a strike price that is lower than the market price of the underlying asset.



The Fund's returns are primarily driven by the premiums received by the Fund when writing options (puts or calls) from purchasers seeking protection below a certain level of asset decline (through a put) or seeking participation in the asset price increase above a certain level (through a call).

**Structure: Selling Options Spreads Across Diversified Asset Classes** 

The Fund will enter into debit and/or credit spread transactions based upon the risk/return profile of the underlying asset and sector.

The selection of option positions will be based on the outlook of the broader economic and market environments, the probability of success using option-based metrics, and the appropriateness of risk taken by the position within the Fund's limits.

For yield-focused ETFs, the fund will build an option position seeking to generate a return that mirrors the dividend of the underlying security.

For non-yield-focused asset classes (e.g., gold), the Sub-Advisers will decide based on their view of the economic and market environments particular to that sector. The Sub-Advisers will then choose particular credit spread and/or debit spreads based on their view as to which offers the most advantageous risk/reward characteristics.



## **Diversified Asset Classes**

FIAX seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily by entering into options transactions that are either vertical credit spread transactions or vertical debit spread transactions.



**S&P** 500 – **SPY** 

Large cap U.S. Index



Real Estate –VNQ

Office buildings, hotels, and other real property



**Bonds – AGG** 

Broad exposure to U.S. investment grade bonds





**Energy – XLE** 

Oil, gas, fuel and energy services



**Preferred** − FPE

Preferred and income producing debt securities



**Commodities – GLD** 

Exposure to alternative asset classes

## **Portfolio Managers**



#### **David Nicholas**

Portfolio Manager of FIAX Chief Executive Officer of Nicholas Wealth Management

Mr. Nicholas is the CEO and Founder of Nicholas Wealth Management. Mr. Nicholas has over 17 years of experience in the financial industry. Prior to founding BluePath Capital Management (dba Nicholas Wealth Management) in 2016, Mr. Nicholas spent 4 years as the President& Founder of Nicholas & Company, Inc, where he provided insurance and capital preservation strategies to retirees.

Mr. Nicholas received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Kennesaw State University and a Master's degree in Financial Planning from the University of Georgia



#### **Mick Brokaw**

Portfolio Manager of ZHDG Chief Compliance Officer Managing Dir. of Trading, ZEGA Financial

Mick Brokaw is the Chief Compliance Officer and Managing Director of Trading at ZEGA Financial. In his role as Managing Director of Trading, he focuses on trading execution and support. Additionally, Mr. Brokaw examines and helps to refine investment strategies as they move from the incubation stage to broader distribution.

Mr. Brokaw brings a product manager's sensibility and methodology to his work, having performed this role most recently at Bank of the West and previously at TD Ameritrade. In his 15+ years at TD Ameritrade, he oversaw myriad changes in a rapidly growing industry. He helped build retail trading products, create educational programs, and develop the industry's first JD Power-certified call center.



## Jay Pestrichelli

Portfolio Manager of FIAX Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, ZEGA Financial

Jay Pestrichelli is co-founder and managing director of ZEGA Financial. Mr. Pestrichelli leads the development and execution of the firm's investment strategies, which are designed to help investors successfully navigate volatile and uncertain markets through innovative hedging strategies.

ZEGA's founding principles grew out of the bestselling book Mr. Pestrichelli co-authored entitled, "Buy and Hedge, the Five Iron Rules for Investing Over the Long Term." His book highlights how to bridge the complicated nature of options investing with the needs of the everyday investor.

Mr. Pestrichelli has been a regular contributor on NASDAQ Trade Talks and the TD Ameritrade Network and is a regularly quoted in top news outlets including Bloomberg, TheStreet, MarketWatch, US News and World Report, Fox Business and CNBC.



#### **Michael Venuto**

Portfolio Manager of FIAX Chief Investment Officer, Toroso Investments

Michael Venuto is the Chief Investment Officer of Toroso Investments and Portfolio Manager of the Nicholas Fixed Income Alternative ETF (FIAX). Mr. Venuto is an ETF industry veteran with over a decade of experience in the design and implementation of ETF-based investment strategies. Previously, he was Head of Investments at Global X Funds where he provided portfolio optimization services to institutional clients.

Before that, he was Senior Vice President at Horizon Kinetics where his responsibilities included new business development, investment strategy and client and strategic initiatives.



Charles A. Ragauss, CFA

Portfolio Manager of FIAX Portfolio Manager, Toroso Investments

Charles A. Ragauss, CFA, is a Portfolio Manager at Toroso Investments and Portfolio Manager the Nicholas Fixed Income Alternative ETF (FIAX). Through Toroso, Mr. Ragauss also provides support services to CSat Investment Advisory, L.P., doing business as Exponential ETFs ("Exponential"). Mr. Ragauss previously served as Chief Operating Officer and in other roles at Exponential from April 2016 to September 2020. Previously,

Mr. Ragauss was Assistant Vice President at Huntington National Bank ("Huntington"), where he was Product Manager for the Huntington Funds and Huntington Strategy Shares ETFs, a combined fund complex of almost \$4 billion in assets under management. At Huntington, he led ETF development bringing to market some of the first actively managed ETFs. Mr. Ragauss joined Huntington in 2010.

# FIAXDefinitions

S&P 500	The Standard and Poor's 500 is a stock market index tracking the stock performance of 500 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States.
Strike Price	Strike price is the price at which the underlying security in an options contract can be bought or sold (exercised).
<b>Put Options</b>	A put option or "put" is a contract giving the option buyer the right, but not the obligation, to sell or sell short a specified amount of an underlying security.
Call Options	Call options are financial contracts that give the option buyer the right but not the obligation to buy a stock, bond, commodity, or other asset or instrument at a specified price within a specific time period.
Cash Flow	Cash flow is net amount of cash and cash equivalents being transferred in and out of a company.

## **Disclosures**

Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the Fund, please call (855) 563-6900 or visit our website at www.nicholasx.com. Read the prospectus or summary prospectus carefully before investing.

Investments involve risk. Principal loss is possible.

References to other securities is not an offer to buy or sell.

Derivatives Risk. Derivatives are financial instruments that derive value from the underlying reference asset or assets, such as stocks, bonds, or funds (including ETFs), interest rates or indexes. The Fund's investments in derivatives may pose risks in addition to, and greater than, those associated with directly investing in securities or other ordinary investments, including risk related to the market, imperfect correlation with underlying investments or the Fund's other portfolio holdings, higher price volatility, lack of availability, counterparty risk, liquidity, valuation and legal restrictions.

Counterparty Risk. The Fund is subject to counterparty risk by virtue of its investments in option contracts which exposes the Fund to the risk that the counterparty will not fulfill its obligation to the Fund.

Equity Market Risk. By virtue of the Fund's investments in option contracts equity ETFs and equity indices, the Fund is exposed to common stocks indirectly which subjects the Fund to equity market risk.

High Portfolio Turnover Risk. The Fund may actively and frequently trade all or a significant portion of the Fund's holdings. A high portfolio turnover rate increases transaction costs, which may increase the Fund's expenses.

Non-Diversification Risk. Because the Fund is "non-diversified," it may invest a greater percentage of its assets in the securities of a single issuer or a smaller number of issuers than if it was a diversified fund.

Hedging Transactions Risk. Hedging transactions involve risks different than those of underlying investments. In particular, the variable degree of correlation between price movements of hedging transactions and price movements in the position being hedged means that losses on the hedge may be greater than gains in the value of the Fund's positions, opportunities for gain may be limited or that there may be losses on both parts of a transaction.

Illiquid Investments Risk. The Fund may, at times, hold illiquid investments, by virtue of the absence of a readily available market for certain of its investments, or because of legal or contractual restrictions on sales.

Interest Rate Risk. The value of the Fund's investments in fixed income Treasury securities will fluctuate with changes in interest rates.

New Fund Risk. The Fund is a recently organized management investment company with no operating history. As a result, prospective investors do not have a track record or history on which to base their investment decisions.

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