

# Short Duration Bond Fund



**STERLING**  
CAPITAL FUNDS

A Shares  
(BSGAX)  
Inception 11.30.1992

C Shares  
(BBSCX)  
Inception 02.01.2012

Inst'l Shares  
(BBSGX)  
Inception 11.30.1992

R6 Shares<sup>1</sup>  
(SHTRX)  
Inception 02.01.2021

12.31.2023

## Overall Morningstar Rating™



Overall rating against 535 Morningstar US Fund Short-Term Bond Funds as of 12.31.2023, derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five- and ten-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. (Institutional)

## Fund Facts

### Investment Objective:

Seeks to provide current income and competitive total return.

Total Net Assets	\$82,273,755
Number of Holdings	134
Average Life	1.98 Years
Effective Duration	1.75 Years
Turnover	69%

## Total Expense Ratio

	Net	Gross
A Shares (BSGAX)	0.73%	0.73%
C Shares (BBSCX)	1.48%	1.48%
Inst'l Shares (BBSGX)	0.48%	0.48%
R6 Shares <sup>1</sup> (SHTRX)	0.38%	0.48%

<sup>1</sup>The Fund Administrator, Sterling Capital Management LLC, has contractually agreed to waive its administrative fees, pay Fund operating expenses, and/or reimburse the Fund .10% of the Class R6 avg. daily net assets for the period February 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025. Performance would have been lower without limitations in effect.

## Dividend Distribution

Month	Rates/A Share
October	\$0.0242
November	\$0.0257
December	\$0.0348
December NAV	\$8.29

## Effective Duration Breakdown

0-1 Yr.	22.2%
1-2 Yr.	37.3%
2-3 Yr.	39.8%
3-5 Yr.	0.7%

The composition of the fund's holdings is subject to change.

## 30-Day SEC Yield

	With Waivers	Without Waivers
A Shares (BSGAX)	4.42%	4.30%
Inst'l Shares (BBSGX)	4.77%	4.64%

SEC Yield is an annualization of the fund's total net investment income per share for the 30-day period ended on the last day of the month.

## Philosophy & Process

To pursue its investment objective, the fund invests, under normal circumstances, at least 80% of its net assets plus borrowings for investment purposes in fixed income securities (bonds). The fund will maintain an average duration between one and three years.

**Strategy Summary:** The team's multi-faceted approach uses a combination of top-down and bottom-up analysis, quantitative vs. qualitative analysis and fundamentals vs. valuation in order to generate excess return. Emphasis is placed on risk management through asymmetric risk/return profiles, quantifying risk and assessing return (return potential secondary to risk assessment) and analyzing investment risk within the context of the portfolio and on a stand-alone basis. The team firmly believes in no unintended exposures, consistent risk-adjusted performance over time and the idea that "if you cannot measure it, you cannot manage it."

## Investment Considerations

The fund is subject to the same risks as the underlying bonds in the portfolio such as credit, prepayment, call and interest rate risk. As interest rates rise the value of bond prices will decline. The fund may invest in more aggressive investments such as foreign securities which may expose the Fund to currency and exchange rate fluctuations; mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities sensitive to interest rates and high yield debt (also known as junk bonds) all of which may cause greater volatility and less liquidity. The fund invests in securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government or its agencies. These guarantees do not apply to the Fund. Investments in municipal obligations may be subject to more risk depending on economic, political and other conditions within the state and municipality. The fund may trade securities actively, which could increase its transaction costs thereby lowering its performance.

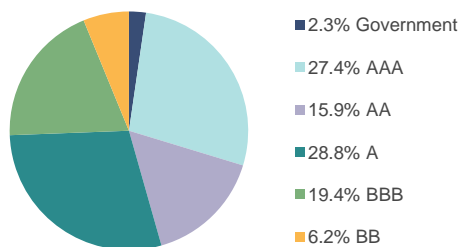
**Investors should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. For a prospectus or summary prospectus with this and other information about the fund, please call 888.228.1872 or visit our website at [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Read the prospectus carefully before investing.**

Fund Performance 12.31.2023	QTR	YTD	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years	Since Inception
A Shares with 2.00% Sales Charge	0.79%	3.16%	3.16%	-0.19%	1.56%	1.30%	3.04%
A Shares without Sales Charge	2.90%	5.32%	5.32%	0.49%	1.96%	1.51%	3.10%
Institutional Shares	2.96%	5.71%	5.71%	0.74%	2.22%	1.76%	3.35%
ICE BofA U.S. Corp./Govt. 1-3 Yr.	2.64%	4.63%	4.63%	0.08%	1.52%	1.28%	3.43%
Lipper Short Investment Grade Median	2.98%	5.63%	5.63%	0.38%	1.84%	1.51%	---

Year-End Returns	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
A Shares without Sales Charge	1.67%	1.51%	1.08%	4.45%	3.97%	-0.25%	-3.41%	5.32%
Institutional Shares	1.92%	1.76%	1.33%	4.71%	4.23%	-0.12%	-3.18%	5.71%
ICE BofA U.S. Corp./Govt. 1-3 Yr.	1.29%	0.86%	1.63%	4.07%	3.34%	-0.41%	-3.79%	4.63%

**Past performance does not guarantee future results. The performance data quoted represents past performance and current returns may be lower or higher. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than the original cost. To obtain performance information current to the most recent month end and information on other share classes, please visit [www.sterlingcapital.com](http://www.sterlingcapital.com). Performance for periods greater than one year is annualized.**

## Quality Breakdown



Credit quality ratings using S&P's ratings symbols reflect the credit quality of the underlying bonds in the fund portfolio and not of the fund itself. Securities are rated by S&P's, Moody's and Fitch; when ratings vary the highest rating available for each security is applied. Credit quality ratings are measured on a scale that generally ranges from AAA (highest) to D (lowest). "NR" is used to classify securities for which a rating is not available. Bond quality ratings are subject to change.

\*Allocations are based on the current weight to funds in the cited category. The composition of the fund's holdings is subject to change.

Portfolio Composition	Fund	Index
Corporate	63.3%	25.9%
Financial Institutions	27.9%	12.9%
Industrial	28.5%	11.8%
Utility	6.9%	1.2%
Government Related	5.3%	9.3%
Agency	1.0%	5.8%
Local Authority	4.3%	0.6%
Sovereign	--	0.5%
Supranational	--	2.4%
Securitized	26.8%	--
ABS	17.3%	--
CMBS	7.1%	--
CMO	2.4%	--
Treasury	1.3%	64.8%
Cash	3.3%	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



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# Short Duration Bond Fund

Morningstar Style Box



Limited Moderate Extensive  
Duration

12.31.2023

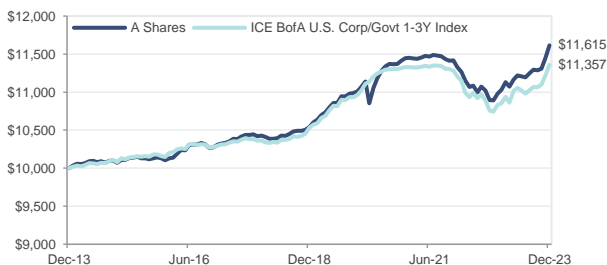
## Portfolio Management

**Mark M. Montgomery, CFA®**  
Senior Managing Director | Co-Portfolio Manager  
Mark joined SCM in 1997 and has co-managed the fund since 2008. He has investment experience since 1990. Mark received a B.S. in Marketing with a minor in Public Administration from West Chester University and a M.B.A. from Drexel University. He holds the CFA® designation.

**Peter L. Brown, CFA®**  
Managing Director | Co-Portfolio Manager  
Pete joined SCM in 2004 and has co-managed the fund since 2020. He has investment experience since 2000. Pete received a B.S. in Statistics with minors in Business Management, Marketing and Communications from Cornell University, and a M.B.A. from Wake Forest University. He holds the CFA® designation.

The Chartered Financial Analyst® (CFA) charter is a graduate-level investment credential awarded by CFA Institute, the largest global association of investment professionals. To earn the CFA charter, candidates must: 1) pass three sequential, six-hour examinations; 2) have at least four years of qualified professional investment experience; 3) join CFA Institute as members; and 4) commit to abide by, and annually reaffirm, their adherence to the CFA Institute Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

## Growth of \$10,000



The Growth of \$10,000 chart is hypothetical based upon the performance of A Shares without sales charge for the period ended 12.31.2023. It includes the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains.

## Top Ten Holdings

World Omni 2023-A 5.65%	17-Jul-2028	1.70%
Enterprise 5.42%	20-Oct-2029	1.44%
Hertz 2021-2 1.68%	25-Dec-2027	1.40%
Carmax 2022-4 5.34%	16-Aug-2027	1.40%
MStanley BofA 3.923%	18-Oct-2047	1.33%
MA St Spl Oblig Rev 3.67%	15-Jan-2026	1.31%
U.S. Treasury 4.625%	15-Sep-2026	1.30%
Onemain 2019-1 3.63%	14-Sep-2027	1.27%
JPMorgan Chase 3.805%	17-Jul-2047	1.19%
Avis 2020-2 2.02%	20-Feb-2027	1.10%

Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to change and risk. Based on Market Value of securities.

## Lipper Short Investment Grade Category Based on Total Return as of 12.31.2023

	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Lipper Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	175 / 387	101 / 357	80 / 330	73 / 240
Lipper Quartile (Percentile)	2nd (46%)	2nd (29%)	1st (25%)	2nd (31%)

## Morningstar Short-Term Bond Category Based on Risk-Adjusted Returns as of 12.31.2023

	Overall Rating	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
Institutional Shares Morningstar Rating™	★★★★	--	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Morningstar Ranking / Number of Funds in Category	535	249 / 574	99 / 535	111 / 495	104 / 357
Morningstar Quartile (Percentile)		2nd (48%)	1st (22%)	2nd (26%)	2nd (36%)

**A Note on Indices:** The volatility of an index varies greatly. All indices are unmanaged and investments cannot be made directly in an index.

**The ICE BofA 1-3 Year U.S. Corporate/Government Bond Index** includes fixed rate debt issues rated investment grade or higher by Moody's and S&P. All issues have at least one year to three years to maturity and an outstanding par value of at least \$300 million. All returns are market value weighted inclusive of accrued interest. The total return includes price appreciation/depreciation and income as a percentage of the original investment. The total return index is rebalanced monthly by market capitalization.

**The Lipper Short Investment-Grade Debt Index** reflects the average time-weighted rate of return of a representative group of short investment-grade bond funds over time. Refinitiv™ Lipper® defines a short investment-grade bond fund as a fund that invests primarily in investment-grade debt issues (rated in the top four grades), with dollar-weighted average maturities of less than three years. The funds that comprise the index are intended to be employed as a good representation of combined peer group performance, acting as relevant benchmarks to measure single fund manager performance and rankings within that peer group. Lipper ensures that no restricted track record extensions are permitted, meaning only real histories represent the independently collected data. Source: Refinitiv Lipper.

Ratings and Rankings would have been lower for Class A shares due to fees and expenses. Lipper and Morningstar ratings are based on total return, including the reinvestment of dividends and capital gains but do not include sales charges for the periods indicated. Rankings shown are for Class I Shares and may be lower for Class A Shares due to higher fees and expenses. Mutual funds are assigned a rank within a universe of funds, relative to a peer group and similar in investment objective as determined by Lipper and Morningstar. The lower the number rank, the better the fund performed compared to other funds in the classification group. Lipper and Morningstar also calculate a percentile measure for each fund ranging from 1% (best) to 100% (worst).

The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating", is calculated for managed products (including mutual funds, variable annuity and variable life subaccounts, exchange-traded funds, closed-end funds, and separate accounts) with at least a three-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. It is calculated based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance, placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. The top 10% of products in each product category receive 5 stars, the next 22.5% receive 4 stars, the next 35% receive 3 stars, the next 22.5% receive 2 stars, and the bottom 10% receive 1 star. The Overall Morningstar Rating for a managed product is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its three-, five-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. The weights are: 100% three-year rating for 36-59 months of total returns, 60% five-year rating/40% three-year rating for 60-119 months of total returns, and 50% 10-year rating/30% five-year rating/20% three-year rating for 120 or more months of total returns. While the 10-year overall star rating formula seems to give the most weight to the 10-year period, the most recent three-year period actually has the greatest impact because it is included in all three rating periods.

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**Technical Terms: Effective Duration** calculates the average life of individual bonds within a bond fund, and serves as a useful measure of the entire portfolio's sensitivity to rising and falling interest rates. An Effective Duration of 2.00 means that with a 1% decline in interest rates, the principal value should rise by 2%, and vice versa. **Portfolio Turnover Rate** measures a fund's annual trading activity. It is a percentage used to demonstrate how many holdings in a mutual fund were replaced within the year. (Sources: Corporate Finance Institute; Investopedia.)

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