

Frequently Asked Questions

Why CDARS®?

CDARS is one of the safest and smartest investment vehicles for investors looking to protect their large-dollar investments while earning CD-level returns. CDs placed through CDARS offer:

- Access to multi-million-dollar FDIC insurance.¹
- The ease of working through one trusted relationship, earning one rate per maturity, and receiving consolidated statements.
- Possible relief from ongoing collateralization – since CDARS deposits are eligible for FDIC protection, you may not need to perform the time-consuming tasks of continually collateralizing your deposits and tracking changing collateral values on a recurring basis.²
- The power of daily compounding.
- A finite maturity date (in contrast to auction-rate or some adjustable-rate securities).
- The ability to have your funds available to support lending initiatives, including special development projects that strengthen your local community.³

How can deposits greater than the standard FDIC insurance maximum be insured by the FDIC?

Currently, the FDIC insures up to \$250,000 of a customer's savings deposits in a given insurable capacity at an FDIC-insured depository institution.⁴ So, you can run around to multiple institutions to deposit your funds to receive the same coverage you can access using CDARS. Or you can place your large-dollar deposit with Choice Financial – a member of the CDARS Network. Your deposit is divided into smaller amounts and placed with other CDARS Network members – each an FDIC-insured institution. Then, those member institutions issue CDs in amounts under the standard FDIC insurance maximum, so that your deposit is eligible for FDIC insurance at each member bank. By working directly with one financial institution – Choice Financial – you can receive insurance through many.

Who has custody of my funds?

Funds placed through CDARS are deposited only in FDIC-insured banks. We act as custodian for your CDARS deposits, and the sub-custodian for CDARS deposits is The Bank of New York Mellon (“BNY Mellon”), the largest custodian in the world with total assets of more than \$22 trillion.⁵

Unique to CDARS, a depositor can obtain a confirmation of records maintained by BNY Mellon as sub-custodian in order to reconcile those records with the statements received from us. At any time, as often as desired, a depositor can obtain a certified statement from BNY Mellon that confirms the exact amount of his or her CDs, including principal balance and accrued interest, for each FDIC-insured institution that issues a CD through CDARS.

You can submit a request for the certified statement, along with BNY Mellon's processing fee, through us. BNY Mellon will send the certified statement directly to you or to another party, such as an auditor, designated by you.

How can my funds be used locally if my CDs are issued by financial institutions all over the country?

When we swap deposits with other CDARS Network members on a dollar-for-dollar basis, the same amount of funds placed through the Network returns to us. As a result, the total amount of your original deposit can remain with our bank and be used for local lending. (CDARS® ReciprocalSM transactions only.)

Is my account information safe?

Your account information is protected; your relationship remains between you and Choice Financial.

What happens if a CDARS Network member bank fails?

Most of the banks that have failed in the United States in recent years were not CDARS Network members or did not hold any CDARS deposits when they failed. When a Network member has failed, the bank's CDs issued using CDARS in most cases have been transferred to a healthy institution – the FDIC's preferred method for handling bank failures. In cases where the FDIC has been unable to find a healthy institution willing to accept such a transfer, it has arranged for the payment of the insured principal and accrued interest to the depositors. This payment has usually occurred in a matter of days.

Please go to <http://www.fdic.gov/deposit/index.html> to learn more about FDIC insurance.

[1] Limits apply. Funds may be submitted for placement only after an investor enters into a CDARS Deposit Placement Agreement with our bank. This agreement contains important information and conditions regarding the placement of funds.

[2] If an investor is subject to restrictions with respect to the placement of funds in depository institutions, it is the responsibility of the investor to determine whether the placement of the investor's funds through CDARS or a particular CDARS transaction satisfies those restrictions.

[3] Because deposited funds are exchanged on a dollar-for-dollar basis with other banks in the CDARS Network, our bank can use the full amount of a deposit placed through CDARS for local lending, satisfying some investors' local investment goals/mandates. Alternatively, with an investor's consent, our bank may choose to receive fee income instead of deposits from other banks. Under these circumstances, deposited funds would not be available for local lending.

[4] The standard FDIC insurance coverage amount is \$250,000 per insured capacity per bank through December 31, 2013. Thereafter, the standard FDIC coverage amount will revert to \$100,000 unless Congress further extends the higher coverage amount. Accordingly, for CDs that mature on or before December 31, 2013, customer funds will be allocated to banks that are members of the CDARS Network in amounts up to \$250,000 and for CDs that mature after December 31, 2013, customer funds will be allocated in amounts up to \$100,000.

[5] *As reported by BNY Mellon in December 2009. Please see www.bnymellon.com/foresight/readcounter.cfm?id=t1064&lb for details.

CDARS is a registered service mark of Promontory Interfinancial Network, LLC.

Why CDARS®

CDARS® offers multiple benefits to investors who want to combine the security of access to FDIC insurance with the convenience of working directly with just one financial institution.

Peace of Mind. Using the CDARS service, you can access multi-million-dollar FDIC insurance on CD investments.¹

One Relationship. You work directly with our financial institution.

One Rate. You negotiate one interest rate per maturity on CD investments placed through CDARS. With CDARS, there is no need to negotiate multiple rates or manually tally disbursements for each CD.

One Statement. You receive one regular statement detailing your CD investments. You no longer need to manually consolidate statements at the end of each month, quarter, or year.

No Hidden Fees. You will not be charged annual fees, subscription fees, or transaction fees for using CDARS. The rate you see is the rate you get.

No Ongoing Collateralization. Because CDARS deposits are eligible for FDIC protection, you may not need to continually collateralize your deposits. This can eliminate the time-consuming task of tracking changing collateral values on a recurring basis.²

A Wide Variety of Maturities. You can select from various maturities – ranging from 4 weeks to 260 weeks (5 years) – and choose the terms that best suit your investment needs.

Community Investment. Your funds can support lending initiatives, including special development projects that strengthen your local community.³

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