

NUVEEN MUNICIPAL HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND
Form N-2
August 20, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on August 20, 2009

File No. 333-

File No. 811-021449

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-2

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Pre-Effective Amendment No.

Post-Effective Amendment No.

and/or

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940

Amendment No. 12

(Check appropriate box or boxes)

Nuveen Municipal High Income Opportunity Fund

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606

Edgar Filing: NUVEEN MUNICIPAL HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-2

(Address of Principal Executive Offices (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code))

(800) 257-8787

(Registrant's Telephone Number, including Area Code)

Kevin J. McCarthy

Vice President and Secretary

333 West Wacker Drive

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Name and Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code) of Agent for Service

Copies to:

Monica L. Parry

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20004

Approximate Date of Proposed Public Offering:

As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the securities being registered on this form will be offered on a delayed or continuous basis in reliance on Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered in connection with a dividend reinvestment plan, check the following box.

It is proposed that this filing will become effective (check appropriate box)

When declared effective pursuant to section 8(c)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Edgar Filing: NUVEEN MUNICIPAL HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-2

Title of Securities Being Registered	Amount Being Registered	Proposed	Proposed	Amount of Registration Fee(2)
		Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1)	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	
Common Shares, \$0.01 par value	1,000 Shares	\$ 10.95	\$ 10,950	\$ 0.61

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933 based on the average of the high and low sales prices of the shares of beneficial interest on August 19, 2009 as reported on the NYSE Amex.

(2) Transmitted prior to filing.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such dates as the Securities and Exchange Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Pursuant to Rule 429(a) under the Securities Act of 1933, the prospectus included in this registration statement is a combined prospectus and also relates to \$[] aggregate amount of securities registered and remaining unsold under Nuveen Municipal High Income Fund s Registration Statement on Form N-2 (No. 333-140017), as amended, which was initially filed on January 16, 2007. Pursuant to Rule 429(b), this registration statement also constitutes a Post-Effective Amendment to Registration Statement No. 333-140017, which post-effective amendment shall hereafter become effective concurrently with the effectiveness of this registration statement and in accordance with Section 8(c) of the Securities Act of 1933. If securities previously registered under that registration statement are offered and sold before the effective date of this registration statement, the amount of previously registered securities so sold will not be included in the prospectus hereunder.

The information in this Prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This Prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS

[] **Million Common Shares**

Nuveen Municipal High Income Opportunity Fund

Nuveen Municipal High Income Opportunity Fund (the Fund) is a diversified, closed-end management investment company. The Fund's primary investment objective is to provide high current income exempt from regular federal income tax. The Fund's secondary investment objective is to seek attractive total return consistent with its primary objective. The Fund invests at least 80% of its Managed Assets (as defined on page 1 of the Prospectus) in investments the income from which is exempt from regular federal income tax. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing in municipal securities that Nuveen Asset Management (NAM), the Fund's investment adviser, believes are underrated and undervalued. The Fund cannot assure you that it will achieve its investment objectives.

Investing in the Fund's Common Shares involves certain risks that are described in the Risk Factors and How the Fund Manages Risks sections of this Prospectus.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this Prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

You should read this Prospectus, which contains important information about the Fund, before deciding whether to invest and retain it for future reference. A Statement of Additional Information (SAI), dated [], 2009, containing additional information about the Fund, has been filed with the SEC and is incorporated by reference in its entirety into this Prospectus. You may request a free copy of the SAI, the table of contents of which is on the last page of this Prospectus, annual and semi-annual reports to shareholders and other information about the Fund, and make shareholder inquiries by calling (800) 257-8787, by writing to the Fund or from the Fund's website (<http://www.nuveen.com>). The information contained in, or that can be accessed through, the Fund's website is not part of this Prospectus. You also may obtain a copy of the SAI (and other information regarding the Fund) from the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) web site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

Edgar Filing: NUVEEN MUNICIPAL HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-2

The Fund's common shares do not represent a deposit or obligation of, and are not guaranteed or endorsed by, any bank or other insured depository institution, and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Reserve Board or any other governmental agency.

Portfolio Contents. The Fund invests at least 80% of its Managed Assets in investments the income from which is exempt from regular federal income tax. Under normal circumstances, the Fund expects to be fully invested (at least 95% of its Managed Assets) in such tax-exempt municipal securities. The Fund invests in municipal securities that NAM believes are underrated and undervalued. Up to 30% of the Fund's Managed Assets may be invested in municipal securities that pay interest that is taxable under the federal alternative minimum tax applicable to individuals. The Fund will invest at least 50% of its Managed Assets in municipal securities that at the time of investment are investment grade quality. A security is considered investment grade quality if it is rated within the four highest grades by all nationally recognized statistical rating organizations that rate such security, or if it is unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by the Fund's investment adviser. The Fund may invest up to 50% of its Managed Assets in municipal securities that at the time of investment are rated below investment grade quality or that are unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by the Fund's investment adviser. No more than 5% of the Fund's Managed Assets may be invested in municipal securities rated below B-/B3 or that are unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by the Fund's investment adviser. Municipal securities of below investment grade quality are regarded as having predominately speculative characteristics with respect to capacity to pay interest and repay principal, and are commonly referred to as junk bonds.

Adviser. Nuveen Asset Management, the Fund's investment adviser, will be responsible for implementing the Fund's investment strategy and use of leverage.

The common shares are listed on the NYSE Amex. The trading or "ticker" symbol of the common shares of the Fund is NMZ.

Subject to completion, the date of this Prospectus is [], 2009.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Prospectus Summary</u>	1
<u>Summary of Fund Expenses</u>	13
<u>Financial Highlights</u>	15
<u>Trading and Net Asset Value Information</u>	16
<u>The Fund</u>	16
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	17
<u>The Fund's Investments</u>	18
<u>Portfolio Composition</u>	26
<u>Use of Leverage</u>	27
<u>Risk Factors</u>	28
<u>How the Fund Manages Risk</u>	38
<u>Management of the Fund</u>	40
<u>Net Asset Value</u>	42
<u>Distributions</u>	43
<u>Dividend Reinvestment Plan</u>	43
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	45
<u>Description of Shares</u>	46
<u>Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust</u>	48
<u>Repurchase of Fund Shares: Conversion to Open-End Fund</u>	49
<u>Tax Matters</u>	50
<u>Custodian and Transfer Agent</u>	52
<u>Legal Opinion</u>	52
<u>Available Information</u>	52
<u>Statement of Additional Information Table of Contents</u>	54
<u>Appendix A</u>	A-1

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference into this Prospectus. The Fund has not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. The Fund is not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in this Prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of this Prospectus. The Fund will update this Prospectus to reflect any material changes to the disclosures herein.

PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This is only a summary. You should review the more detailed information contained elsewhere in this Prospectus and in the SAI.

The Fund

Nuveen Municipal High Income Opportunity Fund (the Fund) is a diversified, closed-end management investment company. See The Fund. The Fund's common shares, \$.01 par value (Common Shares), are traded on the NYSE Amex (the Exchange) under the symbol NMZ. See Description of Common Shares. As of June 30, 2009, the Fund had 24,596,064 Common Shares outstanding, 3,800 preferred shares (referred to herein as MuniPreferred Shares) and net assets applicable to Common Shares of \$235,189,084.

Investment Objectives and Policies

The Fund's primary investment objective is to provide high current income exempt from regular federal income tax. The Fund's secondary investment objective is to seek attractive total return consistent with its primary objective. The Fund cannot assure you that it will achieve its investment objectives.

The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective primarily by investing at least 80% of its assets, including assets attributable to the MuniPreferred Shares (Managed Assets) in investments the income from which is exempt from regular federal income tax. Under normal circumstances, the Fund expects to be fully invested (at least 95% of its Managed Assets) in such tax-exempt municipal securities. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objectives by investing in municipal securities that NAM (defined below) believes are underrated and undervalued. Up to 30% of the Fund's Managed Assets may be invested in municipal securities that pay interest that is taxable under the federal alternative minimum tax applicable to individuals. For a discussion of how the federal alternative minimum tax may affect shareholders, see Tax Matters.

The Fund will invest at least 50% of its Managed Assets in investment grade quality municipal securities. A security is considered investment grade quality if it is rated within the four highest grades (Baa or BBB or better by Moody's, S&P or Fitch) by all NRSROs that rate such security, or if it is unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by NAM.

The Fund may invest up to 50% of its Managed Assets in municipal securities that at the time of investment are rated below investment grade. Below investment grade quality municipal securities include those municipal securities that are rated investment grade by one or more NRSROs but rated below investment grade by at least one NRSRO. No more than 5% of the Fund's Managed Assets may be invested in municipal securities rated below B3/B- or that are unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by NAM. This means that the Fund may invest in municipal securities that are involved in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings or are experiencing other financial difficulties at the time of acquisition (such securities are commonly referred to as distressed securities).

As of April 30, 2009, the Fund invested approximately []% of its total investments in municipal securities rated investment grade or unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by NAM and approximately []% of its total investments in municipal securities rated below investment grade or

unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by NAM. The relative percentages of the value of the investments attributable to investment grade municipal securities and to below investment grade municipal securities could change over time as a result of rebalancing the Fund's assets by NAM, market value fluctuations, issuance of additional shares and other events.

See The Fund's Investments and Risk Factors.

Investment Adviser

Nuveen Asset Management (NAM), the Fund's investment adviser, is responsible for investing the Fund's net assets. NAM, a registered investment adviser, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Nuveen Investments, Inc. (Nuveen Investments). Founded in 1898, Nuveen Investments and its affiliates had approximately \$[] billion of assets under management as of June 30, 2009.

On November 13, 2007, Nuveen Investments was acquired by investors led by Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC. Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC is a private equity investment firm based in Chicago, Illinois (the *MDP Acquisition*). For more information, see Investment Adviser. The investor group led by Madison Dearborn Partners, LLC includes affiliates of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (Merrill Lynch), which has since been acquired by Bank of America Corporation (Bank of America). As a result of the MDP Acquisition, Merrill Lynch currently owns a 32% non-voting equity stake in Nuveen Investments, owns a \$30 million position in the \$250 million revolving loan facility of Nuveen Investments and holds two of ten seats on the board of directors of Nuveen Investments. Because these arrangements may give rise to certain conflicts of interest involving NAM and Bank of America (including Merrill Lynch), NAM has adopted policies and procedures intended to address these potential conflicts. For additional information regarding the MDP Acquisition, see Management of the Fund Nuveen Investments.

The Fund is dependent upon services and resources provided by NAM, and therefore NAM's parent, Nuveen Investments. Nuveen Investments significantly increased its level of debt in connection with the MDP Acquisition. As of June 30, 2009, Nuveen Investments had outstanding approximately \$[] billion in aggregate principal amount of indebtedness, with \$[] million of available cash on hand. Nuveen Investments believes that monies generated from operations and cash on hand will be adequate to fund debt service requirements, capital expenditures and working capital requirements for the foreseeable future. However, Nuveen Investments' ability to continue to fund these items may be affected by general economic, financial, competitive, legislative, legal and regulatory factors and by its ability to refinance outstanding indebtedness with scheduled maturities beginning in 2013. The risks, uncertainties and other factors related to Nuveen Investments' business, the effects of which may cause its assets under management, earnings, revenues and/or profit margins to decline, are described in its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which are publicly available.

The Fund pays NAM an annual management fee, payable monthly, in a maximum amount equal to 0.75% of the Fund's average daily Managed Assets. This maximum fee is equal to the sum of a fund-level fee and a

complex-level fee. The fund-level fee is a maximum of 0.55% of the Fund's average total daily Managed Assets, with lower fee levels for fund-level assets that exceed \$125 million. The complex-level fee is a maximum of 0.20% of the Fund's daily Managed Assets based on the daily Managed Assets of all Nuveen-branded closed-end and open-end registered investment companies organized in the U.S., with lower fee levels for complex-level assets that exceed \$55 billion. Based on complex-level assets of approximately \$59 billion as of June 30, 2009, the complex-level fee would be 0.1970% of Managed Assets and the total fee to NAM would be 0.7470% of Managed Assets (assuming Managed Assets of \$125 million).

NAM has contractually agreed to reimburse the Fund for fees and expenses in the amount of 0.24% of the Fund's average daily Managed Assets (through November 30, 2009), and for a declining amount for an additional two years (through November 30, 2011).

For more information on fees and expenses, including fees attributable to Common Shares, see Management of the Fund Investment Management Agreement.

Use of Leverage

The Fund employs financial leverage primarily through its outstanding MuniPreferred Shares. As of June 30, 2009, there were \$[] million in MuniPreferred Shares outstanding. The MuniPreferred Shares have seniority over the Common Shares. Financial leverage is also created as a result of the Fund's investments in inverse floating rate securities. See The Fund's Investments Municipal Securities Inverse Floating Rate Securities and Risk Factors Inverse Floating Rate Securities Risk.

Leverage involves special risks. See Risk Factors Leverage Risks. There is no assurance that the Fund's leveraging strategy will be successful. The Fund will seek to invest the proceeds of any future offerings in a manner consistent with the Fund's investment objectives and policies. See Use of Leverage.

Offering Methods

The Fund may offer shares using one or more of the following methods: (i) at-the-market transactions through one or more broker-dealers that have entered into a selected dealer agreement with Nuveen Investments, LLC (Nuveen), one of the Fund's underwriters; (ii) through an underwriting syndicate; and (iii) through privately negotiated transactions between the Fund and specific investors. See Plan of Distribution.

Distribution Through At-the-Market Transactions. The Fund from time to time may offer its Common Shares through Nuveen, to certain broker-dealers that have entered into selected dealer agreements with Nuveen (the ATM Program). Common Shares will only be sold on such days as shall be agreed to by the Fund and Nuveen. Common Shares will be sold at market prices, which shall be determined with reference to trades on the Exchange, subject to a minimum price to be established each day by the Fund. The minimum price on any day will not be less than the current net asset value per share plus the per share amount of the commission to be paid to Nuveen. The Fund and Nuveen will suspend the sale of Common Shares if the per share price of the shares is less than the minimum price.

The Fund will compensate Nuveen with respect to sales of the Common Shares at a commission rate of up to 3% of the gross sales price per share of Common Shares sold. Nuveen will compensate broker-dealers participating

in the offering at a fixed rate of up to 2.40% of the gross sales price per share of Common Shares sold by that broker-dealer. Nuveen may from time to time change the dealer re-allowance. In addition, out of its own assets, Nuveen intends to compensate broker-dealers for advice relating to the development, structuring and on-going operation of the ATM Program. Nuveen Investments has entered into an agreement with UBS Securities LLC (UBS) for the provision of such services and will compensate UBS at the rate of \$10,000 per calendar quarter for each Nuveen fund in the ATM Program (the ATM Program Fee), up to a maximum amount of \$200,000. The ATM Program Fee will be paid quarterly in arrears with respect to quarters during which there is fund activity under the ATM Program. The ATM Program Fee may be deemed by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) to constitute compensation to UBS in connection with the ATM Program. Settlements of Common Share sales will occur on the third business day following the date of sale.

In connection with the sale of the Common Shares on behalf of the Fund, Nuveen may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 (the 1933 Act), and the compensation of Nuveen may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. Unless otherwise indicated in a further Prospectus supplement, Nuveen will act as underwriter on a reasonable efforts basis.

The offering of Common Shares pursuant to the Distribution Agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (i) the sale of all Shares subject thereto or (ii) termination of the Distribution Agreement. The Fund and Nuveen each have the right to terminate the Distribution Agreement in its discretion at any time. See Plan of Distribution Distribution Through Agents.

The Fund currently intends to distribute the shares offered pursuant to this Prospectus primarily through at-the-market transactions, although from time to time it may also distribute shares through an underwriting syndicate or a privately negotiated transaction. To the extent shares are distributed other than through at-the-market transactions, the Fund will file a supplement to this Prospectus describing such transactions.

Distribution Through Underwriting Syndicates. The Fund from time to time may issue additional Common Shares through a syndicated secondary offering. In order to limit the impact on the market price of the Fund's Common Shares, Underwriters will market and price the offering on an expedited basis (e.g., overnight or similarly abbreviated offering period). The Fund will launch a syndicated offering on a day, and upon terms, mutually agreed upon between the Fund, Nuveen and the underwriting syndicate.

The Fund will offer its shares at a price equal to a specified discount of up to 5% from the closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date. The applicable discount will be negotiated by the Fund and Nuveen in consultation with the underwriting syndicate on a transaction-by-transaction basis. The Fund will compensate the underwriting syndicate out of the proceeds of the offering based upon a sales load of up to 4% of the gross per share offering price. The minimum net proceeds per share to the Fund will not be less than the greater of (i) the Fund's latest net asset value per Common Share or (ii) 91% of the closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares on the day prior to the offering date. See Plan of Distribution Distribution Through Underwriters.

Distribution Through Privately Negotiated Transactions. The Fund, through Nuveen, from time to time may sell directly to, and solicit offers from, institutional and other sophisticated investors, who may be deemed to be underwriters as defined in the 1933 Act for any resale of Common Shares.

The terms of such privately negotiated transactions will be subject to the discretion of the management of the Fund. In determining whether to sell Common Shares through a privately negotiated transaction, the Fund will consider relevant factors including, but not limited to, the attractiveness of obtaining additional funds through the sale of Common Shares, the purchase price to apply to any such sale of Common Shares and the investor seeking to purchase the Common Shares.

Common Shares issued by the Fund through privately negotiated transactions will be issued at a price equal to the greater of (i) the net asset value per Common Share of the Fund's Common Shares or (ii) at a discount ranging from 0% to 5% of the average daily closing market price of the Fund's Common Shares at the close of business on the two business days preceding the date upon which Common Shares are sold pursuant to the privately negotiated transaction. The applicable discount will be determined by the Fund on a transaction-by-transaction basis. See Plan of Distribution Distribution Through Privately Negotiated Transactions.

Special Risk Considerations

Investment in the Fund involves special risk considerations, which are summarized below. The Fund is designed as a long-term investment and not as a trading vehicle. The Fund is not intended to be a complete investment program. See Risk Factors for a more complete discussion of the special risk considerations of an investment in the Fund.

Investment and Market Risk. An investment in the Fund's Common Shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire principal amount that you invest. Your investment in Common Shares represents an indirect investment in the municipal securities owned by the Fund, which generally trade in the over-the-counter markets. Your Common Shares at any point in time may be worth less than your original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions. See Risks Investment and Market Risk

Current Economic Conditions Credit Crisis Liquidity and Volatility Risk. The markets for credit instruments, including municipal securities, have experienced periods of extreme illiquidity and volatility since the latter half of 2007. General market uncertainty and consequent repricing risk have led to market imbalances of sellers and buyers, which in turn have resulted in significant valuation uncertainties in a variety of debt securities, including municipal securities, and significant and rapid value declines in certain instances. These conditions resulted, and in many cases continue to result in, greater price volatility, less liquidity, widening credit spreads and a lack of price transparency, with many debt securities remaining illiquid and of uncertain value. These market conditions may make valuation of some of the Fund's municipal securities uncertain and/or result in sudden and significant value declines in its holdings. In addition, illiquidity and volatility in the credit markets may directly and adversely affect the setting of dividend rates on the Common Shares.

In response to the current national economic downturn, governmental cost burdens may be reallocated among federal, state and local governments. In addition, laws enacted in the future by Congress or state legislatures or referenda could extend the time for payment of principal and/or interest, or impose other constraints on enforcement of such obligations, or on the ability of municipalities to levy taxes. Issuers of municipal securities might seek protection under the bankruptcy laws.

See Risk Factors Current Economic Conditions Credit Crisis Liquidity and Volatility Risk and Risk Factors Municipal Securities Market Risk.

Market Discount from Net Asset Value. Shares of closed-end investment companies like the Fund have during some periods traded at prices higher than net asset value and have during other periods traded at prices lower than net asset value. The Fund cannot predict whether Common Shares will trade at, above or below net asset value. This characteristic is a risk separate and distinct from the risk that the Fund's net asset value could decrease as a result of investment activities. Investors bear a risk of loss to the extent that the price at which they sell their shares is lower in relation to the Fund's net asset value than at the time of purchase, assuming a stable net asset value. Proceeds from the sale of Common Shares in this offering will be reduced by shareholder transaction costs (if applicable, which vary depending on the offering method used). Depending on the premium of the Common Shares at the time of any offering of Common Shares hereunder, the Fund's net asset value may be reduced by an amount up to the offering costs borne by the Fund (estimated to be an additional 0.42% of the offering price assuming a Common Share offering price of \$11.39 (the Fund's closing price on the Exchange on July 31, 2009)). The net asset value per Common Share also will be reduced by costs associated with any future issuances of Common or preferred shares. The Common Shares are designed primarily for long-term investors, and you should not view the Fund as a vehicle for trading purposes. See Risk Factors Market Discount from Net Asset Value and Expected Reductions in Net Asset Value.

Credit and Below Investment Grade Risk. Credit risk is the risk that one or more municipal securities in the Fund's portfolio will decline in price, or the issuer thereof will fail to pay interest or principal when due, because the issuer experiences a decline in its financial status. The Fund may invest up to 50% (measured at the time of investment) of its Managed Assets in municipal securities that are rated below investment grade or that are unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by NAM; provided, that no more than 5% of the Fund's Managed Assets may be invested in municipal securities rated below B-/B3 or that are unrated but judged to be of comparable quality by NAM. This means that the Fund may invest in municipal securities that are involved in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings or are experiencing other financial difficulties at the time of acquisition (such securities are commonly referred to as distressed securities). If a municipal security satisfies the rating requirements described above at the time of investment and is subsequently downgraded below that rating, the Fund will not be required to dispose of the security. If a downgrade occurs, NAM will consider what action, including the sale of the security, is in the best interests of the Fund and its shareholders. Municipal securities of below investment grade quality are predominately

speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal when due, and are susceptible to default or decline in market value due to adverse economic and business developments. Also, to the extent that the rating assigned to a municipal security in the Fund's portfolio is downgraded by any NRSRO, the market price and liquidity of such security may be adversely affected. The market values for municipal securities of below investment grade quality tend to be volatile, and these securities are less liquid than investment grade municipal securities. For these reasons, an investment in the Fund compared with a portfolio consisting solely of investment grade securities, may experience the following:

increased price sensitivity resulting from changing interest rates and/or a deteriorating economic environment;

greater risk of loss due to default or declining credit quality;

adverse issuer specific events that are more likely to render the issuer unable to make interest and/or principal payments; and

the possibility that a negative perception of the below investment grade market develops, resulting in the price and liquidity of below investment grade securities becoming depressed, and this negative perception could last for a significant period of time.

See Risk Factors Credit and Below Investment Grade Risk.

Interest Rate Risk. Generally, when market interest rates rise, bond prices fall, and vice versa. Interest rate risk is the risk that the municipal securities in the Fund's portfolio will decline in value because of increases in market interest rates. In typical market interest rate environments, the prices of longer-term municipal securities generally fluctuate more than prices of shorter-term municipal securities as interest rates change. Because the Fund will invest primarily in long-term municipal securities, the Common Share net asset value and market price per share will fluctuate more in response to changes in market interest rates than if the Fund invested primarily in shorter-term municipal securities. Because the values of lower-rated and comparable unrated debt securities are affected both by credit risk and interest rate risk, the price movements of such lower grade securities in response to changes in interest rates typically have not been highly correlated to the fluctuations of the prices of investment grade quality securities in response to changes in market interest rates. The Fund's use of leverage, as described herein, will tend to increase Common Share interest rate risk. See Risk Factors Interest Rate Risk.

Municipal Securities Market Risk. The amount of public information available about the municipal securities in the Fund's portfolio is generally less than that for corporate equities or bonds, and the investment performance of the Fund may therefore be more dependent on the analytical abilities of NAM than if the Fund were a stock fund or taxable bond fund. The secondary market for municipal securities, particularly the below investment grade bonds in which the Fund may invest, also tends to be less well-developed or liquid than many other securities markets, which may adversely affect the Fund's ability to sell its bonds at attractive prices. See Risk Factors Municipal Securities Market Risk and Risks Special Risks Related to Certain Municipal Securities.

Tax Risk. The value of the Fund's investments and its net asset value may be adversely affected by changes in tax rates and policies. Because interest income from municipal securities is normally not subject to regular federal income taxation, the attractiveness of municipal securities in relation to other investment alternatives is affected by changes in federal income tax rates or changes in the tax-exempt status of interest income from municipal securities. Additionally, the Fund is not a suitable investment for individual retirement accounts, for other tax-exempt or tax-deferred accounts or for investors who are not sensitive to the federal income tax consequences of their investments. See Risk Factors Tax Risk.

Leverage Risk. Financial leverage created through the Fund's outstanding MuniPreferred Shares or the use of tender option bonds creates an opportunity for increased Common Share net income and returns, but also creates special risks for Common Shareholders. There is no assurance that the Fund's leveraging strategy will be successful. Through the use of financial leverage, the Fund seeks to enhance potential Common Share earnings over time by employing leverage based on short-term municipal rates and investing at long-term municipal rates which are typically, though not always, higher. Because the long-term municipal securities in which the Fund invests generally pay fixed rates of interest while the Fund's costs of leverage generally fluctuate with short-term yields, the incremental earnings from leverage will vary over time. Accordingly, the Fund cannot assure you that the use of leverage will result in a higher yield or return to Common Shareholders. The income benefit from leverage will be reduced (increase) to the extent that the difference narrows (widens) between the net earnings on the Fund's portfolio securities and its cost of leverage. If short-term rates rise, the Fund's cost of leverage could exceed the fixed rate of return on longer-term bonds held by the Fund that were acquired during periods of lower interest rates, reducing income and returns to Common Shareholders. This could occur even if both short-term and long-term municipal rates rise. The Fund's cost of leverage includes both the dividends paid on MuniPreferred Shares or the interest expense attributable to tender option bonds as well as any one-time costs (e.g., issuance costs) and ongoing fees and expenses associated with such leverage.

In February 2008, escalating liquidity pressures across financial markets led to the systemic failure of the auction rate preferred securities (ARPS) market and the auction process used to set the ARPS dividend rate. This failure is on going and affects the Fund's MuniPreferred Shares a form of ARPs whose dividend rates are currently set by reference to a pre-determined, index-based formula (the Maximum Rate). Because the Maximum Rates on the Fund's MuniPreferred Shares over time are expected to result in a higher relative cost of leverage compared with historical levels, the potential incremental earnings from the Fund's use of MuniPreferred Shares would be expected to be reduced relative to historical levels. The Fund and its Adviser continue to explore various alternatives for refinancing the Fund's outstanding MuniPreferred Shares in order to reduce the Fund's relative cost of leverage over time and to provide liquidity at par for MuniPreferred shareholders.

The Fund's use of financial leverage also creates incremental Common Share net asset value risk because the full impact of price changes in the

Fund's investment portfolio, including assets attributable to leverage, is borne by Common Shareholders. This can lead to a greater increase in net asset values in rising markets than if the Fund were not leveraged, but also can result in a greater decrease in net asset values in declining markets. The Fund's use of financial leverage similarly can magnify the impact of changing market conditions on Common Share market prices. See Risk Factors Inverse Floating Rate Securities Risk. The Fund is required to maintain certain regulatory and rating agency asset coverage requirements in connection with its outstanding MuniPreferred Shares, in order to be able to maintain the ability to declare and pay Common Share distributions and to maintain the MuniPreferred Share's AAA/Aaa rating. In order to maintain required asset coverage levels, the Fund may be required to alter the composition of its investment portfolio or take other actions, such as redeeming MuniPreferred Shares with the proceeds from portfolio transactions, at what might be an inopportune time in the market. Such actions could reduce the net earnings or returns to Common Shareholders over time.

The Fund may invest in the securities of other investment companies, which may themselves be leveraged and therefore present similar risks to those described above.

The Fund seeks to manage the risks associated with its use of financial leverage as described below under Management of Investment Portfolio and Capital Structure to Limit Leverage Risk .

See Risk Factors Leverage Risk and Use of Leverage.

Inverse Floating Rate Securities Risk. The Fund may invest in inverse floating rate securities. Typically, inverse floating rate securities represent beneficial interests in a special purpose trust (sometimes called a tender option bond trust) formed by a third party sponsor for the purpose of holding municipal bonds. See Municipal Securities Inverse Floating Rate Securities. In general, income on inverse floating rate securities will decrease when interest rates increase and increase when interest rates decrease. Investments in inverse floating rate securities may subject the Fund to the risks of reduced or eliminated interest payments and losses of principal. In addition, inverse floating rate securities may increase or decrease in value at a greater rate than the underlying interest rate, which effectively leverages the Fund's investment. As a result, the market value of such securities generally will be more volatile than that of fixed rate securities.

The Fund's purchase of inverse floating rate securities creates financial leverage which provides an opportunity for increased Common Share net income and returns, but also creates the risk that Common Share long-term returns may be reduced if the cost of leverage exceeds the net return on the Fund's investment portfolio.

Inverse floating rate securities have varying degrees of liquidity based upon the liquidity of the underlying securities deposited in a tender option bond trust. The market price of inverse floating rate securities is more volatile than the underlying securities due to leverage. In circumstances where the Fund has a need for cash and the securities in a tender option bond trust are not actively trading, the Fund may be required to sell its inverse floating rate securities at less than favorable prices, or liquidate other Fund portfolio

holdings. Also, the Fund may be required to unwind its tender option bond positions from time to time, which may also require the Fund to sell portfolio securities at time and at prices that are not desirable for the Fund. See **Risks Inverse Floating Rate Securities Risk**.

Inflation Risk. Inflation risk is the risk that the value of assets or income from investment will be worth less in the future as inflation decreases the value of money. As inflation increases, the real value of the Common Shares and distributions can decline. See **Risk Factors Inflation Risk**.

Derivatives Risk, Including the Risk of Swaps. The Fund's use of derivatives involves risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in the investments underlying the derivatives. Whether the Fund's use of derivatives is successful will depend on, among other things, if NAM correctly forecasts market values, interest rates and other applicable factors. If NAM incorrectly forecasts these and other factors, the investment performance of the Fund will be unfavorably affected. In addition, the derivatives market is largely unregulated. It is possible that developments in the derivatives market could adversely affect the Fund's ability to successfully use derivative instruments.

The Fund may enter into debt-related derivatives instruments including credit swap default contracts and interest rate swaps. Like most derivative instruments, the use of swaps is a highly specialized activity that involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. In addition, the use of swaps requires an understanding by NAM of not only of the referenced asset, rate or index, but also of the swap itself. See **Risks Derivatives Risk, Including the Risk of Swaps**, **Risks Counterparty Risk**, **Risks Hedging Risk** and the Statement of Additional Information.

Counterparty Risk. Changes in the credit quality of the companies that serve as the Fund's counterparties with respect to derivatives, insured municipal securities or other transactions supported by another party's credit will affect the value of those instruments. Certain entities that have served as counterparties in the markets for these transactions have recently incurred significant financial hardships including bankruptcy and losses as a result of exposure to sub-prime mortgages and other lower quality credit investments that have experienced recent defaults or otherwise suffered extreme credit deterioration. As a result, such hardships have reduced these entities' capital and called into question their continued ability to perform their obligations under such transactions. By using such derivatives or other transactions, the Fund assumes the risk that its counterparties could experience similar financial hardships. See **Risks Counterparty Risk**.

Reliance on Investment Adviser

The Fund is dependent upon services and resources provided by its investment adviser, NAM, and therefore the investment adviser's parent, Nuveen Investments. Nuveen Investments has a substantial amount of indebtedness. Nuveen Investments, through its own business or the financial support of its affiliates, may not be able to generate sufficient cash flow from operations or ensure that future borrowings will be available in an amount sufficient to enable it to pay its indebtedness with scheduled maturities beginning in 2013 or to fund its other liquidity needs. Nuveen

Investments' failure to satisfy the terms of its indebtedness, including covenants therein, may generally have an adverse effect on the financial condition of Nuveen Investments. For additional information on NAM and Nuveen Investments, including the financial condition of Nuveen Investments, see Management of the Fund Additional Information Related to the Investment Adviser and Nuveen Investments.

Hedging Risk. The Fund's use of derivatives or other transactions to reduce risks involves costs and will be subject to NAM's ability to predict correctly changes in the relationships of such hedge instruments to the Fund's portfolio holdings or other factors. No assurance can be given that NAM's judgment in this respect will be correct. In addition, no assurance can be given that the Fund will enter into hedging or other transactions at times or under circumstances in which it may be advisable to do so. See Risks Hedging Risk.

Anti-Takeover Provisions. The Fund's Declaration of Trust (the Declaration) and the Fund's By-laws (the By-laws) include provisions that could limit the ability of other entities or persons to acquire control of the Fund or convert the Fund to open-end status. These provisions could have the effect of depriving the Common Shareholders of opportunities to sell their Common Shares at a premium over the then current market price of the Common Shares. See Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust and By-Laws Anti-Takeover Provisions and Risks Anti-Takeover Provisions.

In addition, an investment in the Fund's Common Shares raises other risks, which are more fully disclosed in the Risk Factors section of this Prospectus, including: reinvestment risk, sector and industry risk, special risks relating to certain municipal obligations, market disruption risk, impact of offering methods risk, risks relating to certain affiliations; and risks that provisions in the Fund's Declaration of Trust could affect the opportunities of Common Shareholders to sell their Common Shares. See Risk Factors.

Distributions

The Fund pays monthly cash distributions to Common Shareholders at a level rate (stated in terms of a fixed cents per Common Share dividend rate) based on the projected performance of the Fund. The Fund's ability to maintain a level Common Share dividend rate will depend on a number of factors, including dividends payable on the MuniPreferred Shares. As portfolio and market conditions change, the rate of dividends on the Common Shares and the Fund's dividend policy could change. Over time, the Fund will distribute all of its net investment income (after it pays accrued dividends on any outstanding MuniPreferred Shares). In addition, the Fund intends to effectively distribute, at least annually, the net capital gain and taxable ordinary income, if any, to Common Shareholders so long as the net capital gain and taxable ordinary income are not necessary to pay accrued dividends on, or redeem or liquidate, any MuniPreferred Shares. You may elect to reinvest automatically some or all of your distributions in additional Common Shares under the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan.

As explained more fully below in Tax Matters, at least annually, the Fund may elect to retain rather than distribute all or a portion of any net capital gain (which is the excess of net long-term capital gain over net short-term capital loss) otherwise allocable to Common Shareholders and pay federal income tax on the retained gain. As provided under federal tax law,

Common Shareholders of record as of the end of the Fund's taxable year will include their attributable share of the retained gain in their income for the year as a long-term capital gain, and will be entitled to an income tax credit or refund for the tax deemed paid on their behalf by the Fund. The Fund will treat the retained capital gain amount as a substitute for equivalent cash distributions. See [Distributions](#) and [Dividend Reinvestment Plan](#).

The Fund reserves the right to change its distribution policy and the basis for establishing the rate of its monthly distributions at any time.

Custodian and Transfer Agent

State Street Bank and Trust Company will serve as custodian and transfer agent of the Fund's assets. See [Custodian and Transfer Agent](#).

Special Tax Considerations

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its Managed Assets in municipal securities that pay interest that is taxable under the federal alternative minimum tax applicable to individuals. If you are, or as a result of investment in the Fund would become, subject to the federal alternative minimum tax, the Fund may not be a suitable investment for you. In addition, distributions of ordinary taxable income (including any net short-term capital gain) will be taxable to shareholders as ordinary income (and not eligible for favorable taxation as [qualified dividend income](#)), and capital gain dividends will be subject to capital gains taxes. See [Tax Matters](#).

Voting Rights

The holders of the Fund's MuniPreferred Shares, voting as a separate class, have the right to elect at least two trustees at all times and to elect a majority of the trustees in the event two full years dividends on the MuniPreferred Shares are unpaid. In each case, the remaining trustees will be elected by holders of Common Shares and preferred shares, including MuniPreferred Shares, voting together as a single class. The holders of shares of preferred shares, including MuniPreferred Shares, will vote as a separate class or classes on certain other matters as required under the Declaration, the 1940 Act and Massachusetts law. See [Description of MuniPreferred Shares](#), [Voting Rights](#) and [Certain Provisions in the Declaration of Trust](#).

SUMMARY OF FUND EXPENSES

The purpose of the table below is to help you understand all fees and expenses that you, as a Common Shareholder, would bear directly or indirectly. The table shows the expenses of the Fund as a percentage of the average net assets applicable to Common Shares, and not as a percentage of total assets or Managed Assets.

Shareholder Transaction Expenses (as a percentage of offering price)	
At-the-Market Transaction Fees	3.00%
Underwriting Syndicate Transaction Fees	4.00%
Privately Negotiated Transaction Fees	0.00%
Offering Costs Borne by the Fund(1)	0.42%
	As a Percentage of Net Assets Attributable to Common Shares(2)
	<hr/>
Annual Expenses	
Management Fees	
Fund-Level Fees	0.79%
Complex-Level Fees	0.28%
Interest and Related Expenses from Inverse Floaters	0.20%(3)
Other Expenses	0.29%
	<hr/>
Total Annual Expenses	1.56%
Less: Fee and Expense Reimbursement	(0.48)%(4)
	<hr/>
Net Annual Expenses	1.08%
Income Dividends and Capital Gain Distributions on MuniPreferred Shares	1.85%
	<hr/>
Net Annual Expenses and Income Dividends and Capital Gain Distributions on MuniPreferred Shares	2.93%
	<hr/>

-
- (1) Assuming a Common Share offering price of \$11.39 (the Fund's closing price on the Exchange on July 31, 2009).
- (2) Stated as percentages of average net assets attributable to Common Shares for the fiscal period ended October 31, 2008.
- (3) Interest expense arises because accounting rules require the Fund to treat interest paid by trusts issuing certain inverse floating rate investments held by the Fund as having been paid (indirectly) by the Fund. Because the Fund also recognizes a corresponding amount of interest income (also indirectly), the Fund's Common Share net asset value, net investment income, and total return are not affected by this accounting treatment. The actual Interest and Related Expenses from Inverse Floaters incurred in the future may be higher or lower.
- (4) NAM has contractually agreed to reimburse the Fund, as a percentage of average daily net assets (including net assets attributable to MuniPreferred Shares), for fees and expenses in the following amounts:

Year Ending
November 30,

Edgar Filing: NUVEEN MUNICIPAL HIGH INCOME OPPORTUNITY FUND - Form N-2

2009	0.24%
2010	0.16%
2011	0.08%

NAM has not agreed to reimburse the Fund for any portion of its fees and expenses beyond November 30, 2011.

The purpose of the table above is to help you understand all fees and expenses that you, as a Common Shareholder, would bear directly or indirectly. See Management of the Fund Investment Adviser.

Examples

The following examples illustrate the expenses (including the applicable transaction fees, if any, and estimated offering costs of \$3) that a shareholder would pay on a \$1,000 investment that is held for the time periods provided in the table. Each example assumes that all dividends and other distributions are reinvested in the Fund and that the Fund's Net Annual Expenses and Income Dividends and Capital Gain Distributions on MuniPreferred Shares, with the applicable expense limitations, as provided above, remain the same. The examples also assume a 5% annual return.⁽¹⁾

Example # 1 (At-the-Market Transaction)

The following example assumes a transaction fee of 3.00%, as a percentage of the offering price.

<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
\$65	\$131	\$202	\$388

Example # 2 (Underwriting Syndicate Offering)

The following example assumes a transaction fee of 4.00%, as a percentage of the offering price.

<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
\$74	\$140	\$210	\$394

Example # 3 (Privately Negotiated Transaction)

The following example assumes there is no transaction fee.

<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3 Years</u>	<u>5 Years</u>	<u>10 Years</u>
\$36	\$104	\$177	\$369

The examples should not be considered a representation of future expenses. Actual expenses may be greater or less than those shown above.

(1) The example assumes that all dividends and distributions are reinvested at Common Share net asset value. Actual expenses may be greater or less than those assumed. Moreover, the Fund's actual rate of return may be greater or less than the hypothetical 5% return shown in the

example. Each example also applies the relevant expense limitations described in footnote 4 above. See Summary of Fund Expenses.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Information contained in the table below under the headings **Per Share Operating Performance** and **Ratios/Supplemental Data** shows the operating performance of the Fund from the commencement of the Fund's investment operations on November 19, 2003 until October 31, 2008, as well as for the six months ended April 30, 2009.

Selected data for a Common Share outstanding throughout each period:

	<u>Year Ended October 31,</u>					
	<u>2009(a)</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004(b)</u>
PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE	-					
