



April 2022

Munis with Impact

SMI VanEck HIP Sustainable Muni ETF

The VanEck HIP Sustainable Muni ETF (SMI) is an actively managed exchange-traded fund ("ETF") that seeks current income generally exempt from federal income tax by investing in investment grade municipal debt securities that have been issued to fund operations or projects that support or advance sustainable development, as well as promote positive social and environmental outcomes.

Powered by

HIP : INVESTOR
Human Impact + Profit



Sustainable Munis for Stronger Communities

Four Distinct HIP Sustainability Criteria



HIP ESG

Environmental, Social and Governance Impact Ratings



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

HIP SDG

Ratings of the Sustainable Development Goals Established by the United Nations



HIP Climate Threat Resilience

Ratings of Geographic Risk, Governance and Readiness



Opportunity Zones

Focus on Low-Employment, Low Income Census Tracts

HIP Ratings and Data are applied to analyze, evaluate, and prioritize municipal securities based on their ESG, SDG, and Climate Threat Resilience ratings. A rating is only assigned to municipal securities of issuers where at least one qualified opportunity zone is located in the issuer’s region. VanEck uses HIP Ratings to narrow the universe of eligible investments to municipal securities that fund operations or projects that support or advance sustainable development, as well as promote positive social and environmental outcomes or mission accomplishment.

ESG Integration

HIP ESG Ratings quantify how well a municipal entity achieves its stated mission, which can reduce future risk and enhance future cash flow opportunities.



Health

Physical and mental health of citizens



Wealth

Income and asset building for citizens



Earth

Cleaner air, cleaner water, cleaner energy, lower emissions for communities



Equality

Opportunities for all genders, racial identities, and age groups of citizens to thrive



Trust

Transparency, performance, and accountability to its mission and community

Reduced Exposure to Climate Risks



- Reduced exposure to climate threats especially in states like Texas and Florida, and regions in the Southeast.
- Higher resilience prioritized, including states and counties that have climate action plans.
- Higher rating than benchmark indexes connoting a more future-friendly, more sustainable portfolio.

Focus on Geographies with Opportunity Zones



- Increased capital flow to states and counties, specifically of more than 8,000 Opportunity Zones, typically lower-income communities or areas with high job-creation potential.
- Representing 31% of all opportunity zones across the United States.
- More than 10 million people live in these Opportunity Zones, increasing the opportunity for higher health, wealth, earth and equality.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The Fund relies on the Data Provider for the identification of issuers that promote sustainable development based on their HIP Ratings; however, there can be no guarantee that the Data Provider’s methodology will align with the Fund’s investment strategy or desirable issuers can be correctly identified. Moreover, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”) 9, 11 and 12 may be modified or abandoned in the future and there can be no guarantee that the Fund will be able to continue to use HIP Ratings or find an appropriate substitute ratings system.

Deep Dive into the Top 10 Holdings of SMI

As of 1/31/2022

1. Val Verde Unified School District



**4.92%
Weight**

Located at the center of the Inland Empire in Riverside County, CA, Val Verde Unified serves a population that is in-need of additional support with **83.3%¹ of students being low-income, English Learners or foster youth**. The district’s efforts to improve its programs to impact the students most in need are reflected in its **four-year graduation rate of 95%²** for the school year 2018-2019, a 2% improvement over the previous two years. Furthermore, the current graduation rate is higher than the state average of 85% and national average of 86%.³ Val Verde students also show better performance in college preparatory courses, with **62.2% of students being college ready, almost 20% more than the state average** of 43%.⁴ Bonds in SMI were issued by the school district to finance capital improvements including enhancing student safety and campus security systems, relieving overcrowding, repairing aging infrastructure, upgrading classrooms to support college/career readiness in STEM subjects, arts, and skilled trades.

Metric Spotlight: Graduation Rate

Bonds issued for Val Verde Unified and KIPP Academy Charter School are both in the top 10 SMI holdings, and both districts produce an above average graduation rate on a national level.

Weighted Averages

SMI Holding	Graduation Rate	State Average	National Average
Val Verde Unified, CA	95.0%	85.0%	86.0%
KIPP Academy Charter School, NY	97.0%	85.0%	
SMI Portfolio	92.0%	-	-
ICE Benchmark	81.0%	-	-

Importantly, 4 of 24 schools in the Val Verde Unified School District are in Opportunity Zones, which are economically distressed areas and considered an indication of community investment need.

2. Los Angeles International Airport



**3.93%
Weight**

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is the second busiest airport in the United States. In 2019, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), the authority that owns and operates LAX, published a Sustainability Action Plan with the main goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. To achieve this goal, **LAX commits to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** to below 55% of 1990 levels by 2025, 65% by 2035, and 100% by 2045.⁵ In addition to offsetting Scope 1 and 2 emissions, LAX is also offsetting emissions from third parties while also implementing of a **pilot water filtration program which has already reduced aluminum, copper and zinc** deposits by 58%, 54% and 50% respectively (2020).⁶ Moreover, in 2020, through its Harvest Food Donation Program, **LAX donated more than 36 tons of pre-wrapped, unsold food to local charities**, doubling the amount from 2019.⁷ Bonds in SMI were issued by the Department of Airports of the City of Los Angeles, CA to refinance existing bonds, support issuance of future bonds, and to finance certain capital projects, including improvements to terminals and the construction of a central Airport police facility to consolidate certain functions.

3. State of California



**3.17%
Weight**

California’s economy at \$3 trillion is the largest in the nation and would be the fifth largest economy in the world if it were a sovereign country. California energy choices have resulted in **impressive state-wide impact in climate change and ecosystem protection**. Most significantly, beyond enacting policy, California has built government toolkits and standards for local governments to center climate solutions directly in communities, and to facilitate sharing what works on an implementation level. California, along with New York, North Carolina, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Rhode Island, and Hawaii, has required that **all vehicles sold in the state by 2035 be zero-emission vehicles**. This type of policy creates a ready market for electric vehicles as well as the impetus for supporting infrastructure, making the economics for transition viable for US manufacturers in the Midwest and rust belt. Bonds in SMI were issued for the purpose of refunding previously issued general obligation bonds.

Metric Spotlight: Total Consumption From Renewable Energy Sources

Percent of total energy consumption from renewable energy source is a metric considered when developing HIP ratings for issuers at a state level. The State of California consumes energy from renewable sources more than the national average, and so do most of the other holdings in SMI.⁸

Weighted Averages

SMI Holding	Total Energy Consumption From Renewable Energy Sources	National Average
State of California	16.4%	11.3%
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	6.8%	
State of New York	12.9%	
State of Connecticut	6.6%	
State of Oregon	43.1%	
State of Washington	38.4%	
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	6.1%	
SMI Portfolio	16.6%	-
ICE Benchmark	12.6%	-

4. San Francisco International Airport



**3.07%
Weight**

San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is committed to generating a positive impact on the community and the environment. SFO’s heavy duty vehicles are powered by **renewable diesel and landfill-derived compressed natural gas (CNG)**, and the airport is committed to operate 100% zero-emissions light-duty vehicles by the end of 2022⁹. SFO is the world leader in developing and deploying **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)**, and by blending SAF in its fuel supply, in 2020, it reduced CO₂ emissions by 725 metric tons, the equivalent of CO₂ emitted by 158 passenger cars. In addition, SFO is aiming to reduce Scope 3 emissions through the elimination of natural gas in new and retrofitted airport terminal buildings. It is also **phasing out plastic food ware and single-use plastics** and introducing fully compostable materials. Bonds in SMI were issued by the City and County of San Francisco to help the airport finance its Capital Improvement Plan, which includes improvements to aging infrastructure, security, technology, and **energy (Net Zero) improvement** programs, as well as waste-water system improvements.

5. Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA)



**3.06%
Weight**

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) was established by state legislature in 1972 to help **alleviate the effects of poverty on housing**. PHFA funds its mission primarily by the sale of securities, not public tax dollars, and over the years it has generated over \$15 billion to fund more than 183,500 single-family home mortgage loans and build 138,000 rental units, support local housing initiatives, and save the homes of more than 50,400 families from foreclosure¹⁰. PHFA bonds in SMI are designed to **provide new mortgages to low-income Pennsylvanians seeking a primary residence** in “target” census tracts where 70% of the families earn 80% or less of the statewide median income, and “non-target” areas where borrowers’ family income does not exceed 115% of the statewide median income.

6. KIPP NYC Education Bonds via Arizona Industrial Development Authority



**2.95%
Weight**

KIPP Schools are a network of **free, open-enrollment** public charter schools, offering K-12 education. KIPP New York operates a network of schools in the boroughs of Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan, and serves a population of historically under-served students. In the school year 2020-21, **99% of students throughout the network identified as students of color, 90% qualified for free- or reduced-price meals, and 18% had special education needs**. KIPP NYC schools focus on STEM education and programs. KIPP’s curriculum is highly focused on increasing the number of students who **succeed in eighth grade algebra** – a key indicator of college readiness and completeness. KIPP bonds in SMI are Social Bonds that were issued for the purpose of financing the construction of a K-8 facility in the Bronx where enrollment demand was 2.7 times higher than available seats in 2019-20. A third party independently verified the Social Bond designation, and it tracks the June 2021 International Capital Market Association (ICMA) **Social Bond guidelines**. As Social Bonds, these bonds aim to further the advancement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), particularly through Goal 4: Quality Education; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; and Goal 10: Reduced Inequality.

Metric Spotlight: Math Proficiency

Data shows that KIPP Academy Charter School is achieving its dual mission of providing free education to the under-served and disadvantaged communities and improving student performance in math.

Weighted Averages

SMI Holding	Math Proficiency	Total Average	State Average
KIPP Academy Charter School, NY	95.0%	45.6%	46.7%
SMI Portfolio	49.1%	-	-
ICE Benchmark	46.2%	-	-

In the school year 2018-19, **95% of students at KIPP Academy NY achieved math proficiency**, which is considerably higher than the New York City average of 45.6% and New York State average of 46.7% for the same period.¹¹ Issuers of other K-12 bond holdings in SMI demonstrate higher math proficiency, on average, when compared to the ICE benchmark.

Metric Spotlight: Student Population in Poverty

To further underscore its success in expanding access and accelerating skills, compared to its peers in SMI and both the state and national averages, KIPP Academy Charter School has a higher number of students in the ages of 5-17 living in poverty.

Weighted Averages

SMI Holding	Population Age 5-17 in Poverty	State Average	Total Average
Val Verde Unified, CA	9.3%	15.2%	15.8%
Los Angeles Unified, CA	7.5%	15.2%	
KIPP Academy Charter School, NY	36.5%	17.2%	

KIPP Academy Elementary School and KIPP Academy Middle School are both located in the same opportunity zone in Bronx County, New York.

7. Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission



**2.76%
Weight**

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) has a mission of operating a reliable, customer-valued toll road system that supports national mobility and commerce.¹² Since the 1990s, the Commission has been committed to sustainability and has incorporated LEED principles in new construction projects. Several of its **buildings are LEED Silver and Gold certified**. In addition, PTC aims to maintain a sustainable transportation system and reduce GHG emissions from its fleet of vehicles. Other initiatives by the PTC include building its own **microgrid to supply power** to its Greensburg Maintenance Facility. The microgrid consists of solar panels and a natural gas generator, with **excess energy going back to the grid**, for which PTC will receive compensation. Other efforts include **controlling stormwater runoff**, vegetation management, improving the quality of its roadways concrete, deploying durable pavement markings, and installing more **EV charging stations**.¹³ Bonds in SMI were issued for the purpose of refunding previous debt, and for funding the Capital Improvement Plan, which includes improvements to highways, technology needs, expanding its fleet, and repairing and replacing aging facilities.

8. Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**2.74%
Weight**

Since 2018, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been actively addressing the worsening effects of climate change through its **State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan** (SHMCAP). The plan was a result of Executive Order No. 569, passed in 2016, which established an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth. Furthermore, under its **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness** grant program, the Commonwealth awards funding to towns and cities to develop climate change adaptation strategies. Bonds in SMI were issued for the purposes of refunding previously issued bonds.

Metric Spotlight: CO₂ Emissions per Capita

One important element in HIP ratings for state issuers is CO₂ Emissions per Capita. Among SMI State holdings, only the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has more emissions per capita compared to the national average, based on data from 2018.¹⁴ The State of California and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts – both in the top 10 holdings – emit considerably less CO₂ per capita, both compared to the national average, as well as holdings in ICE.

Weighted Averages

SMI Holding	CO ₂ Emissions Per Capita (metric tons)	Total Average
State of California	9.2	15.3
Commonwealth of Massachusetts	9.2	
State of New York	8.6	
State of Connecticut	10.4	
State of Oregon	9.4	
State of Washington	10.4	
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	17.3	
SMI Portfolio	9.7	-
ICE Benchmark	11.7	-

9. County of Franklin, Ohio



**2.73%
Weight**

Bonds in SMI issued by the County of Franklin Ohio will be borrowed by OhioHealth System, a nationally recognized, not-for-profit, charitable, **healthcare** outreach of the United Methodist Church. The state of Ohio ranks 47th out of fifty states and D.C. on health value as measured by the Health Policy Institute of Ohio¹⁵. Nevertheless, OhioHealth has been recognized several times as one of the **top performing hospital systems in the country**. For six consecutive years (2008-2015), it was recognized by Fortune and IBM Watson as a Top 5 Large Health System on its **100 Top Hospitals list**.¹⁶ In 2021, OhioHealth System was ranked **#49 on the Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For list**,¹⁷ with 78% of its employees saying it was a great place to work compared to 57% of employees at a typical U.S.-based company.¹⁸

Metric Spotlight: Hospital Overall Quality of Care Rating

OhioHealth System demonstrates high performance in Hospital Overall **Health Outcome Rating**¹⁹, and **89% of patients would recommend hospitals** within this health system. On average, these values are higher than for the ICE benchmark.

Weighted Averages

SMI Holding	Hospital Overall Quality of Care Rating	Patients Recommending the Hospital
OhioHealth System, OH	89.0%	89.0%
SMI Portfolio	90.0%	91.0%
ICE Benchmark	87.0%	87.0%

10. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



2.52%
Weight

The University of North Carolina Hospital at Chapel Hill ranked second-best among regional hospitals in the state of North Carolina by the U.S. News & World Report in 2020-21.²⁰ In 2020, the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program **recognized the hospital as a Magnet Organization** for the third time. This prestigious designation was rewarded to less than 9% of US hospitals in the same year²¹, and it indicates that the hospital has provided a roadmap for **nurses to pursue education and development** throughout their careers to have greater autonomy and better support patients. Bonds in SMI were issued to complete the construction of a new surgical pavilion building and certain improvements and renovations.

Metric Spotlight: Hospital Overall Rating and Recommended Hospital

The University of North Carolina Hospital at Chapel Hill also demonstrates a **high overall health outcome hospital rating, and 94% of patients would recommend** this hospital. These scores are much higher compared to the overall SMI and ICE averages.

Weighted Averages

SMI Holding	Hospital Overall Rating	Recommended Hospital
University Of North Carolina Hospital, NC	92%	94%
SMI Portfolio	90%	91%
ICE Benchmark	87%	87%

All SMI Holdings: HIP Ratings and Metrics Discussion

ALL HOLDINGS METRICS DISCUSSION

SMI Compared to ICE benchmark: The following tables compare the performance across selected metrics for holdings in the SMI ETF and the ICE benchmark, as of January 31, 2022.

SMI Ratings Trend Higher than ICE benchmark: Criteria for SMI holdings inclusion are a HIP rating and SDG rating above 50% (on a 0-100% scale), a Climate Threat Resilience Rating greater than 33% (on a 0-100% scale), and geography (county or state) inclusion of at least one opportunity zone. We compare the summary criteria – and more granular data points relevant to each muni bond sector.

Comparing apples to apples: The comparison tables use portfolio weighted averages, within a given muni sector, based on percentage ownership of the ICE benchmark and of the SMI portfolio. For the ICE benchmark, HIP's Ratings cover 67.6% of 62,000 issuances, or more than 41,000 issuances.

As a note, the weighted portfolio averages isolate subsectors of interest. For example, when comparing weighted averages for K-12 School Districts, the denominator used to calculate the weighted average will only include market value of bonds related to improvement of K-12 School Districts. A commentary on the impact performance of SMI vs ICE within each covered sector is provided below.

Education: K-12 School Districts

SMI holdings include three education bonds: 2 traditional school districts, Val Verde and Los Angeles Unified; and 1 charter school system, located in New York - KIPP Academy Charter School – financed via the Arizona Industrial Development Authority conduit bond. **SMI shows higher impact** compared to ICE across many metrics, including **math and reading proficiency, graduation rate and the free or reduced lunch** availability for low income students. **Solar capacity per student** also contributes to the HIP SDG 9 rating, which explains the higher performance of SMI holdings towards reaching SDG Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure.

Subsector	SMI Portfolio*	ICE Benchmark*	Difference
K-12 Data Fields			
HIP ESG Rating	69%	63%	6%
HIP SDG 9	86%	68%	18%
HIP SDG 11	77%	66%	11%
HIP SDG 12	-	-	-
HIP SDG 9,11,12	79%	67%	13%
HIP Climate Threat Resilience Rating	45%	34%	11%
Math Proficiency	49%	46%	3%
Reading Proficiency	58%	51%	7%
Graduation Rate	92%	81%	11%
Percent of Students free Or Reduced Price Lunch	83%	50%	32%
Solar Capacity (KW / Student)	0.12	0.07	0.05

*Weighted Average

Education: Universities and Colleges

SMI's university and college holdings include the University of California System, the State of New York University (SUNY) System, and the New School, also located in New York. While there is a slight lag of the HIP rating and student-to-faculty ratio, university issuers held in SMI demonstrate a higher graduation rate, and a **higher dollar amount in awarded grants or scholarships**.

Subsector	SMI Portfolio*	ICE Benchmark*	Difference
University Data Fields			
HIP ESG Rating	63%	64%	-1%
HIP SDG 9	78%	59%	19%
HIP SDG 11	71%	69%	2%
HIP SDG 12			
HIP SDG 9,11,12	72%	68%	4%
HIP Climate Threat Resilience Rating	49%	39%	10%
Graduation Rate (100% Normal Time)	59.6%	52.6%	7%
Student To Faculty Ratio	16.28	15.26	1.02
Average Net Price-Students Awarded Grant Or Scholarship Aid	\$12,187.16	\$10,193.26	\$1,993.90

*Weighted Average

Government: States

There are seven state-level issuers in SMI: the State of California, the State of Connecticut, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of New York, the State of Oregon, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the State of Washington. **SMI holdings' impact perform better** than ICE in all the below impact categories, and notably in CO₂ carbon emissions per capita, percent of energy consumption from renewable energy sources, and statewide obesity rate.

Subsector	SMI Portfolio*	ICE Benchmark*	Difference
State Data Fields			
HIP ESG Rating	59%	57%	2%
HIP SDG 9	63%	61%	2%
HIP SDG 11	58%	57%	1%
HIP SDG 12	59%	57%	2%
HIP SDG 9,11,12	59%	58%	1%
HIP Climate Threat Resilience Rating	58%	50%	8%
Percent Of Total Energy Consumption From Renewable Energy Sources	17%	13%	4%
Obesity Rate	27%	28%	-1%
CO ₂ Emissions Per Capita (tons)	9.72	11.73	-2.01

*Weighted Average

Government: Cities and Counties

SMI holdings include four city-level issuers: the City of San Francisco (San Francisco International Airport), Los Angeles (Los Angeles International Airport), City of Seattle and City of New York. As with state-level performance, **city issuers in SMI outperform** on impact compared to ICE holdings in CO₂ carbon emissions per capita, percent of energy from renewables, and obesity rate.

Subsector	SMI Portfolio*	ICE Benchmark*	Difference
City Data Fields			
HIP ESG Rating	60%	57%	3%
HIP SDG 9	65%	61%	4%
HIP SDG 11	58%	55%	3%
HIP SDG 12	60%	56%	4%
HIP SDG 9,11,12	60%	56%	4%
HIP Climate Threat Resilience Rating	49%	35%	14%
Percent Of Total Energy Consumption From Renewable Energy Sources	17%	11%	6%
Obesity Rate	21%	23%	-2%
CO ₂ Emissions Per Capita (tons)	8.80	10.70	-1.90

*Weighted Average

Transportation: Road Authorities

Holdings in SMI include both transportation districts and state transportation departments. **Road authority bonds in SMI outperform impacts** in ICE in key impact metrics such as higher spending on bicycling and walking projects, less motor vehicle fatalities per 100,000 residents, a higher number of electric vehicle or low carbon transportation incentives, and a higher percentage of passengers commuting via public transportation.

Subsector	SMI Portfolio*	ICE Benchmark*	Difference
Road Authorities Data Fields			
HIP ESG Rating	62%	60%	1%
HIP SDG 9	60%	59%	1%
HIP SDG 11	59%	57%	2%
HIP SDG 12	56%	52%	4%
HIP SDG 9,11,12	58%	56%	2%
HIP Climate Threat Resilience Rating	55%	35%	19%
Percent Of Roads In Good Condition	67%	58%	20%
Commuted By Public Transportation (Excluding Taxis)	18%	10%	8%
Per Capita Spending On Bicycling And Walking Projects (\$)	\$2.57	\$2.01	\$0.56
Motor Vehicle Fatalities Per 100000 Residents	3.88	4.76	-0.88
Number Of Electric Vehicle Or Low Carbon Transportation Incentives	24.51	16.45	8.06

*Weighted Average

Health Care: Hospital Systems

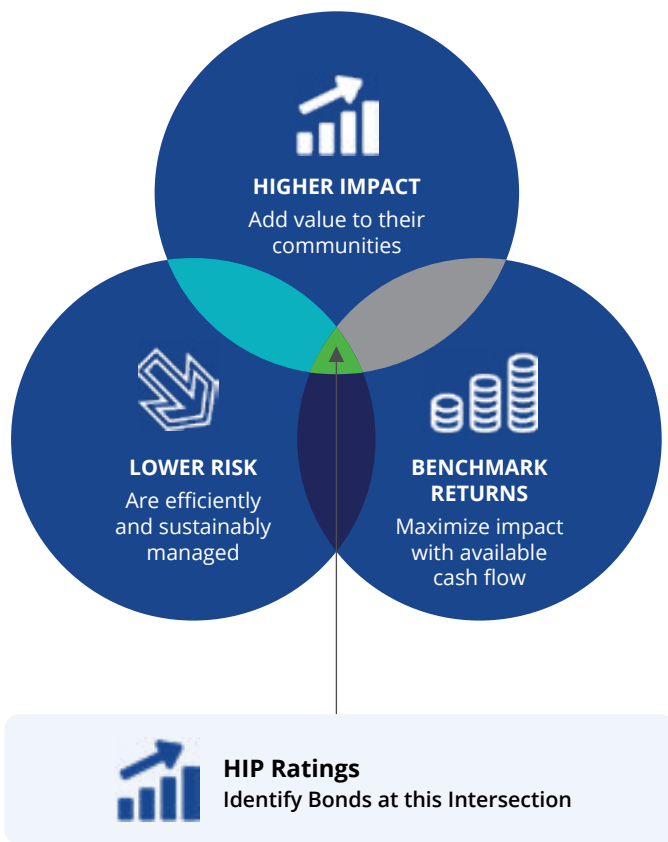
Hospital systems in SMI include four health systems across multiple states and one hospital in North Carolina. **SMI hospital holdings have better impact performance** in key metrics such as the overall hospital health outcomes summary rating, staff responsiveness and the likelihood of hospital recommendation, which is indicative of patient satisfaction.

Subsector	SMI Portfolio*	ICE Benchmark*	Difference
Hospital Data Fields			
HIP ESG Rating	58%	54%	4%
HIP SDG 9	85%	83%	2%
HIP SDG 11	65%	65%	0%
HIP SDG 12	58%	59%	-2%
HIP SDG 9,11,12	68%	68%	0%
HIP Climate Threat Resilience Rating	54%	43%	11%
Recommend Hospital	91%	87%	4%
Hospital Overall Rating	90%	87%	3%
Staff Responsiveness	86%	82%	4%

*Weighted Average

Who is HIP Investor

(HIP = “Human Impact + Profit”)



HIP has been a pioneer in the ESG industry for the past 16 years

- Leader in rating impact of municipal bonds, now with over 190,000 bonds rated
- Innovator in quantifying all 17 of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (“SDGs”)
- Early to analyze and communicate the risks of fossil-intensive portfolios, requiring climate action

HIP’s contributions to the sustainability space range from minute data to marketable content:

- Clients include widely-recognized asset managers that aggregately manage \$7 Trillion in AUM
- Ratings and data across multiple asset classes, including 120,000 munis, 200 sovereigns, and 10,000 corporates
- Intellectual property that drives ETFs, mutual funds, and SMAs, including the VanEck HIP Sustainable Muni ETF
- Insights and thought leadership that have been quoted in major media (Barron’s, CNBC, Reuters, NYT, Bond Buyer)
- Author and editor of educational ESG books, including *The HIP Investor* textbook, in 28 universities around the world, and the *Global Handbook of Impact Investing* (Wiley 2010 and 2021, respectively)

Learn More About HIP: <https://www.vaneck.com/us/en/videos/municipal-bonds/who-is-hip/>

Endnotes:

- ¹ *District Summary: Val Verde Unified.* (2022, March 28). From Education Data Partnership: <http://www.ed-data.org/district/Riverside/Val-Verde-Unified>
- ² *Val Verde Unified School District.* (2022, March 28). From Public School Review: <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/california/val-verde-unified-school-district/691135-school-district>
- ³ *Public High School Graduation Rates.* (2022, March 2022). From National Center for Education Statistics: <https://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/indicator/coi>
- ⁴ *Geography of College Readiness in California.* (2022, March 28). From Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC): <https://www.ppic.org/blog/geography-of-college-readiness-in-california/>
- ⁵ *LAX and VAN NUYS Airports Receive International Certification for Greenhouse Gas Reduction.* (2022, March 28). From Los Angeles World Airports: <https://www.lawa.org/news-releases/2020/news-release-050>
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ *Selected State Comparison.* (2022, March 28). From U.S. Energy Information Administration: <https://www.eia.gov/state/compare/?sid=US#?selected=US-AL-AK-AZ-AR-CA-CO-CT-DE-DC-FL-GA-HI-ID-IL-IN-IA-KS-KY-LA-ME-MD-MA-MI-MN-MS-MO-MT-NE-NV-NH-NJ-NM-NY-NC-ND-OH-OK-OR-PA-RI-SC-SD-TN-TX-UT-VT-VA-WA-WV-WI-WY>
- ⁹ *Action Plans & Reports.* (2022, March 28). From FlySFO: <https://www.flysfo.com/environment/action-plans-reports>
- ¹⁰ *About PHFA.* (2022, March 28). From PA Housing Finance Agency: <https://www.phfa.org/about/>
- ¹¹ *State Education Department Releases Spring 2019 Grades 3-8 ELA & Math Assessment Results.* (2022, March 28). From New York State Education Department: <http://www.nysed.gov/news/2019/state-education-department-releases-spring-2019-grades-3-8-ela-math-assessment-results>
- ¹² *About Us.* (2022, March 28). From PA Turnpike: <https://www.paturnpike.com/about-us/#our-mission>
- ¹³ *Sustainability.* (2022, March 28). From PA Turnpike: <https://www.paturnpike.com/responsibility-matters/sustainability>
- ¹⁴ *Country Fact Sheet: United States.* (2022, March 28). From EDGAR - Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research: https://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/country_profile/USA
- ¹⁵ *2021 Health Value Dashboard.* (2022, March 28). From Health Policy Institute of Ohio: <https://www.healthpolicyohio.org/2021-health-value-dashboard/>
- ¹⁶ *Fortune/IBM Watson Health 100 Top Hospitals 2021: Health Systems.* (2022, March 28). From Fortune: <https://fortune.com/2021/04/27/top-health-systems-2021-ibm-watson-health/>
- ¹⁷ *Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For® 2021.* (2022, March 28). From Great Place To Work: <https://www.greatplacetowork.com/best-workplaces/100-best/2021>
- ¹⁸ *OhioHealth.* (2022, March 28). From Great Place To Work: <https://www.greatplacetowork.com/certified-company/1000189>
- ¹⁹ *Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating.* (2022, March 28). From Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: <https://data.cms.gov/provider-data/topics/hospitals/overall-hospital-quality-star-rating/>
- ²⁰ *Awards & Honors.* (2022, March 28). From UNC Medical Center: <https://www.uncmedicalcenter.org/uncmc/about/awards/>
- ²¹ *UNC Hospitals' "Magnet" Status Renewed for Third Time.* (2022, March 28). From UNC School of Medicine: <https://news.unchealthcare.org/2020/09/unc-hospitals-magnet-status-renewed-for-third-time/>

All HIP ratings and data provided by HIP Investor. This report is updated annually. Issuers and weights based on Fund holdings as of 1/31/2022.

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