



America Saves Week is February 21 – February 28, 2010.
Go to www.americasavesweek.org and learn how you and your organization can participate.

New FINRA Investor Alert on Municipal Bonds

FINRA issued a new Alert, "[Municipal Bonds—Staying on the Safe Side of the Street in Rough Times](#)", along with a [Muni-Bond Investor Checklist](#) (linked to from the Alert).

The Alert outlines the basic characteristics, risks and benefits of investing in municipal bonds and aims to help the investing public better understand and mitigate the risks of investing in these instruments. While muni bonds have historically been considered relatively low-risk investments, investors should be aware that they carry certain risks:

- Defaults, while quite rare, do occur.
- Information about financial problems that affect the bond's issuer has not always been readily available to investors.

FINRA has an online [Muni Bond Check List](#), which provides a step-by-step guide to help investors avoid the most common pitfalls of muni bond investing. Here's the link to the News Release, which summarized the alert as well as other actions FINRA is taking in this area:

[FINRA Takes Sweeping Action to Protect Muni Bond Investors Regulator Issues Investor Alert, Regulatory Notice, Launches Industry Sweeps](#)