

NUVEEN AMT-FREE MUNICIPAL INCOME FUND
Form N-CSRS
July 07, 2014

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-21213

Nuveen AMT-Free Municipal Income Fund
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

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Nuveen Investments
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Chicago, IL 60606
(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (312) 917-7700

Date of fiscal year end: October 31

Date of reporting period: April 30, 2014

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. ss. 3507.

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

Nuveen Investments to be acquired by TIAA-CREF

On April 14, 2014, TIAA-CREF announced that it had entered into an agreement to acquire Nuveen Investments, the parent company of your fund's investment adviser, Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC ("NFAL") and the Nuveen affiliates that act as sub-advisers to the majority of the Nuveen Funds. TIAA-CREF is a national financial services organization with approximately \$569 billion in assets under management (as of March 31, 2014) and is a leading provider of retirement services in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields. Nuveen anticipates that it will operate as a separate subsidiary within TIAA-CREF's asset management business, and that its current leadership and key investment teams will stay in place.

Your fund investment will not change as a result of Nuveen's change of ownership. You will still own the same fund shares and the underlying value of those shares will not change as a result of the transaction. NFAL and your fund's sub-adviser(s) will continue to manage your fund according to the same objectives and policies as before, and we do not anticipate any significant changes to your fund's operations. Under the securities laws, the consummation of the transaction will result in the automatic termination of the investment management agreements between the funds and NFAL and the investment sub-advisory agreements between NFAL and each fund's sub-adviser(s). New agreements will be presented to the funds' shareholders for approval, and, if approved, will take effect upon consummation of the transaction or such later time as shareholder approval is obtained.

The transaction, expected to be completed by year end, is subject to customary closing conditions.

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Chairman's Letter to Shareholders

Dear Shareholders,

After significant growth in 2013, domestic and international equity markets have been less compelling during the first part of 2014. Concerns about deflation, political uncertainty in many places and the potential for more fragile economies to impact other countries have produced uncertainty in the markets.

Europe is beginning to emerge slowly from recession in mid-2013, with improved GDP and employment trends in some countries. However, Japan's deflationary headwinds have resurfaced; and China shows signs of slowing from credit distress combined with declines in manufacturing and exports. Most recently, tensions between Russia and Ukraine may continue to hold back stocks and support government bonds in the near term.

Despite these headwinds, there are some encouraging signs of forward momentum in the markets. In the U.S., the news is more positive with financial risks slowly receding, positive GDP trends, downward trending unemployment and stronger household finances and corporate spending.

It is in such changeable markets that professional investment management is most important. Investment teams who have experienced challenging markets in the past understand how their asset class can behave in rapidly changing times. Remaining committed to their investment disciplines during these times is a critical component to achieving long-term success. In fact, many strong investment track records are established during challenging periods because experienced investment teams understand that volatile markets place a premium on companies and investment ideas that can weather the short-term volatility. By maintaining appropriate time horizons, diversification and relying on practiced investment teams, we believe that investors can achieve their long-term investment objectives.

As always, I encourage you to communicate with your financial consultant if you have any questions about your investment in a Nuveen Fund. On behalf of the other members of the Nuveen Fund Board, we look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the months and years ahead.

William J. Schneider
Chairman of the Board
June 23, 2014

Portfolio Managers' Comments

Nuveen Quality Municipal Fund, Inc. (NQI)
Nuveen Municipal Opportunity Fund, Inc. (NIO)
Nuveen Dividend Advantage Municipal Income Fund (NVG)
Nuveen AMT-Free Municipal Income Fund (NEA)

These Funds feature management by Nuveen Asset Management, LLC, an affiliate of Nuveen Investments. Portfolio managers Paul L. Brennan, CFA, and Douglas J. White, CFA, review key investment strategies and the six-month performance of these four national Funds. Paul has managed NIO, NVG and NEA since 2006 and Douglas assumed portfolio management responsibility for NQI in 2011.

What key strategies were used to manage these Funds during the six-month reporting period ended April 30, 2014?

During this reporting period, we saw the municipal market environment shift from volatility to a more stable atmosphere. As 2014 began, the selling pressure that had been triggered last summer by uncertainty about the Federal Reserve's (Fed) next steps and headline credit stories involving Detroit and Puerto Rico gave way to increased flows into municipal bond funds, as the Fed remained accommodative and municipal credit fundamentals continued to improve. Municipal bonds rebounded, driven by stronger demand and declining supply. For the reporting period as a whole, municipal bonds nationwide generally produced positive total returns. During this time, we continued to take a bottom-up approach to discovering sectors that appeared undervalued as well as individual credits that had the potential to perform well over the long term and helped keep our Funds fully invested.

Despite the challenging environment created by the 20% decrease in municipal bond new issuance during this reporting period, we continued to find opportunities to purchase municipal bonds that helped achieve our goals for the Funds. During this reporting period, NIO, NVG and NEA found value in diversified areas of the market, particularly transportation, higher education, health care and general obligation (GO) bonds. One of our additions in the transportation sector was a new BBB-rated issue from the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (F/ETCA) in California, which we purchased at attractive prices in December 2013. In one of the largest fixed-rate municipal transactions of 2013, F/ETCA refinanced \$2.3 billion in outstanding debt originally issued in 1999. The refinancing extended the agency's debt from 2040 to 2053, lowered annual payments through 2040 and reduced the maximum annual debt payment. Traffic and revenues on the tollroads in F/ETCA's 36-mile network, which links major

Certain statements in this report are forward-looking statements. Discussions of specific investments are for illustration only and are not intended as recommendations of individual investments. The forward-looking statements and other views expressed herein are those of the portfolio managers as of the date of this report. Actual future results or occurrences may differ significantly from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements, and the views expressed herein are subject to change at any time, due to numerous market and other factors. The Funds disclaim any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or views expressed herein.

Ratings shown are the highest rating given by one of the following national rating agencies: Standard & Poor's (S&P), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's) or Fitch, Inc. (Fitch) Credit ratings are subject to change. AAA, AA, A and BBB are investment grade ratings; BB, B, CCC, CC, C and D are below investment grade ratings. Certain bonds backed by U.S. government or agency securities are regarded as having an implied rating equal to the rating of such securities. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by these national rating agencies.

Bond insurance guarantees only the payment of principal and interest on the bond when due, and not the value of the bonds themselves, which will fluctuate with the bond market and the financial success of the issuer and the insurer. Insurance relates specifically to the bonds in the portfolio and not to the share prices of a Fund. No representation is made as to the insurers' ability to meet their commitments.

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Portfolio Managers' Comments (continued)

population centers in Southern California, have increased, and the bonds have performed well for the Funds since purchase. Also in the transportation sector, these three Funds added a new BBB-rated bond offering for the Downtown Crossing bridge across the Ohio River from Indiana to Louisville, Kentucky and NIO and NEA purchased bonds for the Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority in Florida. In higher education, we added bonds issued for Nova Southeastern University and Hodges University, all in Florida and St. Louis College of Pharmacy in Missouri. During this reporting period, we also purchased bonds issued by Catholic Health Initiative, a national non-profit health system that operates hospitals and long-term care facilities in 17 states, for facilities in Colorado and Tennessee. In addition, we increased our exposure to GO bonds issued by the state of Illinois in NIO and NEA. Despite the state's well-publicized fiscal difficulties, we believe Illinois has taken small positive steps to begin addressing these problems and these holdings have performed well.

In NQI, we also were active in areas where we saw value, including transportation, essential services, education and GOs. In addition, we selectively increased our exposure to health care. Among our purchases in the essential services area were bonds issued for the Central Valley Project, a federal water management project that provides irrigation and municipal water to California's Central Valley by regulating and storing water in the northern half of the state and transporting it to the San Joaquin Valley and surrounding areas. Overall, the additions to NQI were well diversified geographically, including education credits in Texas and Minnesota, transportation bonds in Illinois and New Jersey and GOs in California, Kansas and North Carolina. Another area of focus during this reporting period was duration management. During the prior reporting period, NQI's duration had extended beyond its target range as a natural consequence of reinvesting the proceeds from bonds called as part of current refundings. These bonds were priced to short calls and therefore had negligible durations; consequently, reinvesting their proceeds in anything other than cash had the effect of extending NQI's duration. As a result, many of our purchases during this reporting period involved bonds with intermediate maturities to bring NQI's duration closer to its benchmark.

Also during this reporting period, S&P upgraded its credit rating on National Public Finance Guarantee Corp. (NPF), the insurance subsidiary of MBIA, to AA- from A, citing NPF's strong operating performance and competitive position in the financial guarantee market. As a result, the ratings on the Funds' holdings of bonds backed by insurance from NPF were similarly upgraded to AA-rated as of mid-March 2014. This action produced an increase in the percentage of our portfolios held in the AA-rated credit quality category (and a corresponding decrease in the A-rated category), improving the overall credit quality of the Funds. During this reporting period, S&P also upgraded its rating on Assured Guaranty Municipal (AGM) as well as AGM's municipal-only insurer Municipal Assurance Corp. to AA from AA-.

Cash for new purchases during this reporting period was generated primarily by the proceeds from called and matured bonds, which we worked to redeploy to keep the Funds fully invested and support their income streams. The Funds also engaged in some light selling for cashflow management purposes or to take advantage of attractive prices for some of the Funds' holdings.

As of April 30, 2014, all four of these Funds continued to use inverse floating rate securities. We employ inverse floaters for a variety of reasons, including duration management, income enhancement and total return enhancement. As part of our duration management strategies, NEA also found it necessary to add an interest rate swap to reduce price volatility risk to movements in U.S. interest rates relative to the Fund's benchmark. This derivative functioned as intended and remained in place at the end of the reporting period.

How did the Funds perform during the six-month reporting period ended April 30, 2014?

The tables in each Fund's Performance Overview and Holding Summaries section of this report provide the Funds' total returns for the six-month, one-year, five-year and ten-year periods ended April 30, 2014. Each Fund's total returns at net asset value (NAV) are compared with the performance of a corresponding market index and Lipper classification average.

For the six months ended April 30, 2014, the total returns at NAV for all four of these Funds exceeded the return for the national S&P Municipal Bond Index. For the same period, the Funds underperformed the average return for the Lipper General & Insured Leveraged Municipal Debt Funds Classification Average.

Key management factors that influenced the Funds' returns during this reporting period included duration and yield curve positioning, credit exposure and sector allocation. In addition, the use of regulatory leverage was an important positive factor affecting the Funds' performance. Leverage is discussed in more detail in the Fund Leverage section of this report.

As interest rates on longer bonds slipped and the yield curve flattened during this period, municipal bonds with longer maturities generally outperformed those with shorter maturities. Overall, credits with long-intermediate maturities (15 years and longer) outperformed the municipal market as a whole, while bonds at the shortest end of the municipal yield curve produced the weakest results. In general, the Funds' durations and yield curve positioning were the key contributors to their performance. Consistent with our long-term strategy, these Funds tended to have longer durations than the municipal market in general, with overweightings in the longer parts of the yield curve that performed well and underweightings in the underperforming shorter end of the curve. This was beneficial for the Funds' performance during this reporting period. Performance differentials among the Funds can be largely ascribed to individual differences in duration and yield curve positioning. Overall, NVG was the most advantageously positioned in terms of duration and yield curve, while NIO had the shortest duration among the four Funds. In NEA, as previously described, we added an interest rate swap to reduce the Fund's duration, which had exceeded its target. Because the swap reduced NEA's duration, it detracted somewhat from the Fund's performance.

Credit exposure was another key factor in the Funds' performance during this six-month reporting period. In general, lower rated bonds were rewarded as the environment shifted from selloff to rally, investors became more risk-tolerant and credit spreads, or the difference in yield spreads between U.S. Treasury securities and comparable investments such as municipal bonds, narrowed. Overall, A-rated credits and lower outperformed those AAA and AA-rated credits. Each of these Funds benefited from its lower rated holdings during this reporting period. This was particularly true in NVG and NEA, which had the largest allocations of A-rated bonds and lower.

Portfolio Managers' Comments (continued)

For the reporting period, revenue bonds generally outperformed tax-supported bonds as well as the municipal market as a whole. Top performers included the industrial development revenue (IDR) and health care sectors. In addition, transportation (especially lower rated tollroad issues), water and sewer, education and housing credits generally outperformed the municipal market return. All four Funds had double-digit weightings in the health care and transportation sectors, with NEA having the heaviest health care exposure and NIO having the heaviest exposure to transportation. Tobacco credits backed by the 1998 master tobacco settlement agreement also were among the best performing market sectors, due in part to their longer effective durations and lower credit quality. NIO, NVG and NEA were overweight in tobacco bonds, while NQI did not hold any tobacco credits.

In contrast, pre-refunded bonds, which are often backed by U.S. Treasury securities, were among the weaker performers. The underperformance of these bonds relative to the market can be attributed primarily to their shorter effective maturities and higher credit quality. Because of the quality and higher yields offered by pre-refunded bonds, we continued to hold these bonds and the Funds tended to be overweighted in this category, with NVG having the largest exposure and NEA the smallest. Utilities and GO bonds also trailed the market for the reporting period, although by a substantially smaller margin than the pre-refunded category.

Shareholders also should be aware of two events in the broader municipal bond market that continued to have an impact on the Funds' holdings and performance: the City of Detroit's ongoing bankruptcy proceedings and the downgrade of ratings on Puerto Rico GO bonds and related debt to below investment grade. Burdened by decades of population loss, changes in the auto manufacturing industry, and significant tax base deterioration, the City of Detroit filed for Chapter 9 in federal bankruptcy court in July 2013. Given the complexity of its debt portfolio, number of creditors, numerous union contracts, and significant legal questions that must be addressed, Detroit's bankruptcy filing is expected to be a lengthy one. All of these Funds except NQI had allocations of Detroit water and sewer credits, which are supported by revenue streams generated by service fees. Some of these holdings also were insured. In addition, NIO held positions in insured Detroit GO bonds and insured Detroit City School District credits; the school bonds are not part of the Detroit bankruptcy.

In Puerto Rico, the commonwealth's continued economic weakening, escalating debt service obligations and long-standing inability to deliver a balanced budget led to several downgrades on its debt. Following the most recent round of rating reductions in February 2014, Moody's, S&P and Fitch Ratings rated Puerto Rico GO debt at Ba2/BB+/BB, respectively, with negative outlooks. Ratings on sales tax bonds issued by the Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (COFINA) also have been lowered, with senior sales tax revenue bonds rated Baa1/AA-/AA- and subordinate sales tax revenue bonds rated Baa2/A+/A+ by Moody's, S&P and Fitch, respectively, as of April 2014. The COFINA bonds were able to maintain a higher credit rating than the GOs because, unlike the revenue streams supporting some Puerto Rican issues, the sales taxes supporting the COFINA bonds cannot be diverted and used to support Puerto Rico's GO bonds.

For the reporting period ended April 30, 2014, Puerto Rico paper underperformed the municipal market as a whole. During this reporting period, these four Funds had limited exposures to Puerto Rico bonds of less than 1% to 2%. The effect on performance from their Puerto Rico holdings differed from Fund to Fund in line with the type and amount of its position, but on the whole, the small nature of our exposures limited the impact. Puerto Rico bonds were originally added to our portfolios in order to keep assets fully invested and working for the Funds. We found Puerto Rico credits attractive because they offer higher yields, added diversification and triple exemption (i.e., exemption from most federal, state and local taxes).

At period end, the majority of the Funds' exposure to Puerto Rico consisted of COFINA sales tax credits, issues that were insured or escrowed and other bonds that Nuveen considers to be of higher quality. NQI, NIO, NVG and NEA began the reporting period with portfolio allocations of 1.0%, 0.5%, 0.7% and 1.6% to Puerto Rico, respectively and ended the reporting period with an exposure to Puerto Rico of 0.7%, 0.4%, 0.5% and 1.6%, respectively. We believe that our decision to maintain limited exposure to Puerto Rico bonds will enable us to participate in any future upside for the commonwealth's obligations.

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Fund Leverage

IMPACT OF THE FUNDS' LEVERAGE STRATEGIES ON PERFORMANCE

One important factor impacting the returns of the Funds relative to their comparative benchmarks was the Funds' use of leverage through their issuance of preferred shares and/or investments in inverse floating rate securities, which represent leveraged investments in underlying bonds. The Funds use leverage because our research has shown that, over time, leveraging provides opportunities for additional income, particularly in the recent market environment where short-term market rates are at or near historical lows, meaning that the short-term rates the Fund has been paying on its leveraging instruments have been much lower than the interest the Fund has been earning on its portfolio of long-term bonds that it has bought with the proceeds of that leverage. However, use of leverage also can expose the Fund to additional price volatility. When a Fund uses leverage, the Fund will experience a greater increase in its net asset value if the municipal bonds acquired through the use of leverage increase in value, but it will also experience a correspondingly larger decline in its net asset value if the bonds acquired through leverage decline in value, which will make the Fund's net asset value more volatile, and its total return performance more variable over time. In addition, income in levered funds will typically decrease in comparison to unlevered funds when short-term interest rates increase and increase when short-term interest rates decrease. Leverage made a positive contribution to the performance of these Funds over this reporting period.

As of April 30, 2014, the Funds' percentages of effective and regulatory leverage are as shown in the accompanying table.

	NQI	NIO	NVG	NEA
Effective Leverage*	36.58%	38.32%	36.81%	36.88%
Regulatory Leverage*	30.09%	31.49%	30.43%	30.50%

* Effective Leverage is a Fund's effective economic leverage, and includes both regulatory leverage and the leverage effects of certain derivative and other investments in a Fund's portfolio that increase the Fund's investment exposure. Currently, the leverage effects of Tender Option Bond (TOB) inverse floater holdings are included in effective leverage values, in addition to any regulatory leverage. Regulatory leverage consists of preferred shares issued or borrowings of a Fund. Both of these are part of a Fund's capital structure. Regulatory leverage is subject to asset coverage limits set forth in the Investment Company Act of 1940.

THE FUNDS' REGULATORY LEVERAGE

As of April 30, 2014, the Funds have issued and outstanding Variable Rate MuniFund Term Preferred (VMTP) Shares and Variable Rate Demand Preferred (VRDP) Shares as shown in the accompanying table.

Fund	VMTP Shares			VRDP Shares			Total
	Series	Shares Issued at Liquidation Value	Value	Series	Shares Issued at Liquidation Value	Value	
NQI	2015	\$	240,400,000	—		—	—\$ 240,000,000
NIO	—		—	1	\$	667,200,000	\$ 667,200,000
NVG	—		—	1	\$	201,000,000	\$ 201,000,000
NEA	2016	\$	151,000,000	1	\$	219,000,000	
				2	\$	130,900,000	
		\$	151,000,000		\$	349,900,000	\$ 500,900,000

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