Item 1: Cover Page



SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL LLC

Enterprise Center One Bridge Street, #206 Plymouth, NH 03264 845-527-9062

Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure

Dated March 2024

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL. If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (845)527-9062. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of New Hampshire. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training.

Additional information about SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u>, which can be found using the firm's identification number, 321200.

Item 2: Material Changes

The last annual update of this Brochure was filed on February 13, 2023. Since this filing, there have been no reported changes. In the future, any material changes made during the year will be reported here.

Future Changes

From time to time, we may amend this Disclosure Brochure to reflect changes in our business practices, changes in regulations, and routine annual updates as required by securities regulators. Either this complete Disclosure Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to each Client annually and if a material change occurs in the business practices of SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL.

At any time, you may view the current Disclosure Brochure online at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at <u>http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> by searching for our firm name or by our CRD number 321200.

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Item 4: Advisory Business

Description of Advisory Firm

SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL (hereinafter referred to as "SEF", "we", "firm", and "us") is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of New Hampshire. We are a limited liability company founded in December 2021. Matthew Sheers is the principal owner of SEF.

Types of Advisory Services

Financial Planning

Financial planning involves an evaluation of a Client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the Client. Clients purchasing this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan will address any or all of the following areas of concern. The Client and advisor will work together to select specific areas to cover. These areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cash Flow and Debt Management: We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired amounts.
- **College Savings**: Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other post-secondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount. Recommendations as to savings strategies are included, and, if needed, we will review your financial picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if appropriate).
- **Employee Benefits Optimization**: We will provide review and analysis as to whether you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee

benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal retirement goals.

- Estate Planning: This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts, and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts. We always recommend that you consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.
- **Financial Goals**: We will help Clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.
- **Insurance**: Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.
- **Investment Analysis**: This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet Clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.
- **Retirement Planning**: Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to

adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

- **Risk Management:** A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning. Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance ("self-insuring").
- **Tax Planning Strategies:** Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their "tax efficiency," with the consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

We recommend that you consult with a qualified tax professional before initiating any tax planning strategy, and we may provide you with contact information for accountants or attorneys who specialize in this area if you wish to hire someone for such purposes. We will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your tax professional with your approval.

• **Major Purchase Planning:** Analysis may be provided to consider various payment options for major purchases. For example, we may calculate the costs and cash flow flexibility of various mortgage or auto loan financing options, review cash flow implications, and ensure that an adequate down payment is aligned for stability and liquidity within the respective investment accounts.

Ongoing Comprehensive Financial Planning

This service involves working one-on-one with a planner over an extended period of time. By paying a fixed monthly fee, Clients get to work with a planner who will work with them to develop and implement their plan. The planner will monitor the plan, recommend any changes and ensure the plan is up to date.

Upon desiring a comprehensive plan, a Client will be taken through establishing their goals and values around money. They will be required to provide information to help complete the following areas of analysis: net worth, cash flow, insurance, credit scores/reports, employee benefit, retirement planning, insurance, investments, college planning, and estate planning. Once the Client's information is reviewed, their plan will be built and analyzed, and then the findings, analysis and potential changes to their current situation will be reviewed with the Client. Clients

subscribing to this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the Client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives. If a follow-up meeting is required, we will meet at the Client's convenience. The plan and the Client's financial situation and goals will be monitored throughout the year and follow-up phone calls and emails will be made to the Client to confirm that any agreed upon action steps have been carried out. On an annual basis, there will be a full review of this plan to ensure its accuracy and ongoing appropriateness. Any needed updates will be implemented at that time.

Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions

We tailor the delivery of our services to meet the individual needs of our Clients. We consult with Clients initially and on an ongoing basis, through the duration of their engagement with us, to determine risk tolerance, time horizon and other factors that may impact the Clients' investment and/or planning needs.

Clients are able to specify, within reason, any restrictions they would like to place as it pertains to individual securities and/or sectors that will be traded in their account. All such requests must be provided to SEF in writing. SEF will notify Clients if they are unable to accommodate any requests.

Wrap Fee Programs

We do not participate in wrap fee programs.

Assets under Management

SEF does not offer Investment Management Services, therefore does not report any discretionary or non-discretionary assets under management ("AUM").

Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a Client has received the firm's Disclosure Brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing the investment advisory contract, the investment advisory contract may be terminated by the Client within five (5) business days of signing the contract without incurring any advisory fees. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory service we perform. Below is a brief description of our fees, however, you should review your executed Client Contract for more detailed information regarding the exact fees you will be paying.

Comprehensive Financial Planning

The fee for development of a comprehensive financial plan will range from \$2,800 to \$4,800, depending on the complexity of the Client's financial situation and planning needs. Half of the fee will be due at the beginning of the engagement and the remainder is due upon delivery of the financial plan.

This work will commence immediately after the fee is paid, and the length of time required to complete and deliver the plan is dependent on several factors including the needs of the client, the client's ability to provide any necessary information and documentation, as well as the complexity of their financial situation. At no time do we require prepayment of fees 6 or more months in advance of delivering the requested services.

SEF will schedule a follow-up meeting to serve as a check in for the implementation of the financial plan. Following this meeting, once the plan has been delivered, clients may choose to continue the relationship by engaging in our Ongoing Financial Planning Service.

Fees for this service may be paid by, credit card, electronic funds transfer (EFT) or check. In the event of early termination any prepaid but unearned fees will be refunded to the Client and any completed deliverables of the project will be provided to the Client and no further fees will be charged.

Ongoing Financial Planning

Ongoing Financial Planning consists of an ongoing flat fee that is paid monthly, in arrears, at a rate between \$185 and \$315 per month, depending on the complexity of the Client's financial situation and planning needs. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases at the discretion of SEF. Fees for this service may be paid by credit card, electronic funds transfer (EFT) or check. This service may be terminated by either party with 30 days' notice. Upon termination, the fee will be prorated and any unearned fee will be refunded to the Client.

Other Types of Fees and Expenses

When implementing an investment recommendation, the Client may incur additional fees such as brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by broker-dealers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer, and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange-traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

We do not offer performance-based fees and do not engage in side-by-side management.

Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning services to individuals, high net-worth individuals, corporations, or other businesses. We do not have a minimum account size requirement.

Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

When Clients have us complete an Investment Analysis (described in Item 4 of this brochure) as part of their financial plan, our primary methods of investment analysis are fundamental, technical, cyclical, and charting analysis. Our primary investment strategies are modern portfolio theory and passive investment strategy.

Fundamental analysis involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience, and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. The risk of fundamental analysis is that the information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

Technical analysis involves using chart patterns, momentum, volume, and relative strength in an effort to pick sectors that may outperform market indices. However, there is no assurance of accurate forecasts or that trends will develop in the markets we follow. In the past, there have been periods without discernible trends and similar periods will presumably occur in the future. Even where major trends develop, outside factors like government intervention could potentially shorten them.

Furthermore, one limitation of technical analysis is that it requires price movement data, which can translate into price trends sufficient to dictate a market entry or exit decision. In a trendless or erratic market, a technical method may fail to identify trends requiring action. In addition, technical methods may overreact to minor price movements, establishing positions contrary to overall price

trends, which may result in losses. Finally, a technical trading method may underperform other trading methods when fundamental factors dominate price moves within a given market.

Cyclical analysis is a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends based upon business cycles. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long-term expansions and contractions. The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

Charting analysis involves the gathering and processing of price and volume information for a particular security. This price and volume information is analyzed using mathematical equations. The resulting data is then applied to graphing charts, which is used to predict future price movements based on price patterns and trends. Charts may not accurately predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may not reflect all information about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

Modern Portfolio Theory

The underlying principles of MPT are:

• Investors are risk averse. The only acceptable risk is that which is adequately compensated by an expected return. Risk and investment return are related and an increase in risk requires an increased expected return.

• Markets are efficient. The same market information is available to all investors at the same time. The market prices every security fairly based upon this equal availability of information.

• The design of the portfolio as a whole is more important than the selection of any particular security. The appropriate allocation of capital among asset classes will have far more influence on long-term portfolio performance than the selection of individual securities.

• Investing for the long-term (preferably longer than ten years) becomes critical to investment success because it allows the long-term characteristics of the asset classes to surface.

• Increasing diversification of the portfolio with lower correlated asset class positions can decrease portfolio risk. Correlation is the statistical term for the extent to which two asset classes move in tandem or opposition to one another.

Passive Investment Management

We primarily practice passive investment management. Passive investing involves building portfolios that are comprised of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve the desired relationship between correlation, risk, and return. Funds that

passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio. The funds that are used to build passive portfolios are typically index mutual funds or exchange-traded funds.

Passive investment management is characterized by low portfolio expenses (i.e. the funds inside the portfolio have low internal costs), minimal trading costs (due to infrequent trading activity), and relative tax efficiency (because the funds inside the portfolio are tax efficient and turnover inside the portfolio is minimal).

In contrast, active management involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark.

Material Risks Involved

SEF does not provide investment management; however, investment recommendations may be made as part of the financial planning service. All investing strategies we offer involve risk and may result in a loss of your original investment which you should be prepared to bear. Many of these risks apply equally to stocks, bonds, commodities, and any other investment or security. Material risks associated with our investment strategies are listed below.

Market Risk: Market risk involves the possibility that an investment's current market value will fall because of a general market decline, reducing the value of the investment regardless of the operational success of the issuer's operations or its financial condition.

Strategy Risk: The Adviser's investment strategies and/or investment techniques may not work as intended.

Small and Medium Cap Company Risk: Securities of companies with small and medium market capitalizations are often more volatile and less liquid than investments in larger companies. Small and medium cap companies may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the Client's portfolio.

Turnover Risk: At times, the strategy may have a portfolio turnover rate that is higher than other strategies. A high portfolio turnover would result in correspondingly greater brokerage commission expenses and may result in the distribution of additional capital gains for tax purposes. These factors may negatively affect the account's performance.

Limited markets: Certain securities may be less liquid (harder to sell or buy) and their prices may at times be more volatile than at other times. Under certain market conditions, we may be unable to sell or liquidate investments at prices we consider reasonable or favorable or find buyers at any price.

Concentration Risk: Certain investment strategies focus on particular asset-classes, industries, sectors or types of investment. From time to time these strategies may be subject to greater risks of adverse developments in such areas of focus than a strategy that is more broadly diversified across a wider variety of investments.

Interest Rate Risk: Bond (fixed income) prices generally fall when interest rates rise, and the value may fall below par value or the principal investment. The opposite is also generally true: bond prices generally rise when interest rates fall. In general, fixed income securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these price changes. Most other investments are also sensitive to the level and direction of interest rates.

Legal or Legislative Risk: Legislative changes or Court rulings may impact the value of investments, or the securities' claim on the issuer's assets and finances.

Inflation: Inflation may erode the buying power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same.

Risks Associated with Securities

Apart from the general risks outlined above which apply to all types of investments, specific securities may have other risks.

Commercial Paper is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default.

Common stocks may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

Corporate Bonds are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on factors such as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

Bank Obligations including bonds and certificates of deposit may be vulnerable to setbacks or panics in the banking industry. Banks and other financial institutions are greatly affected by interest rates and may be adversely affected by downturns in the U.S. and foreign economies or changes in banking regulations.

Municipal Bonds are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds. However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment

risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

Options and other derivatives carry many unique risks, including time-sensitivity, and can result in the complete loss of principal. While covered call writing does provide a partial hedge to the stock against which the call is written, the hedge is limited to the amount of cash flow received when writing the option. When selling covered calls, there is a risk the underlying position may be called away at a price lower than the current market price.

Exchange Traded Funds prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which the Clients invest.

Mutual Funds: When a Client invests in open-end mutual funds or ETFs, the Client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the Client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the Client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives).

Item 9: Disciplinary Information

Criminal or Civil Actions

SEF and its management have not been involved in any criminal or civil action.

Administrative Enforcement Proceedings

SEF and its management have not been involved in administrative enforcement proceedings.

Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings

SEF and its management have not been involved in legal or disciplinary events that are material to a Client's or prospective Client's evaluation of SEF or the integrity of its management.

Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Neither SEF or its management persons is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

Neither SEF or its management persons is registered, or have an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

SEF does not have any related parties. As a result, SEF does not have a relationship with any related parties.

SEF only receives compensation directly from Clients. SEF does not receive compensation from any outside source. SEF does not have any conflicts of interest with any outside party.

Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisers

SEF does not recommend or select other investment advisers for our clients.

Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

As a fiduciary, our firm has a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each Client. Our Clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also adheres to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the CFP® Board of Standards Inc., and accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities. Additionally, SEF requires adherence to its Insider Trading Policy, and the CFA Institute's Asset Manager Code of Professional Conduct and Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Conduct.

Code of Ethics Description

This code does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and literal compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield associated persons from liability for personal trading or other conduct that violates a fiduciary duty to advisory Clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity Associated persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity Associated persons shall be objective in providing professional services to Clients.
- Competence Associated persons shall provide services to Clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness Associated persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable to Clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such services.
- Confidentiality Associated persons shall not disclose confidential Client information without the specific consent of the Client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism Associated persons' conduct in all matter shall reflect the credit of the profession.
- Diligence Associated persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

We periodically review and amend our Code of Ethics to ensure that it remains current, and we require all firm access persons to attest to their understanding of and adherence to the Code of Ethics at least annually. Our firm will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics to any Client or prospective Client upon request.

Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest

Neither our firm, its associates or any related person is authorized to recommend to a Client or effect a transaction for a Client, involving any security in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest, such as in the capacity as an underwriter, adviser to the issuer, etc.

Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest

Our firm and its "related persons" do not invest in the same securities, or related securities, e.g., warrants, options or futures, which we recommend to Clients.

Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Client's Securities

Because our firm and its "related persons" do not invest in the same securities, or related securities, e.g., warrants, options or futures, which we recommend to Clients, we do not trade in securities at or around the same time as Clients.

Item 12: Brokerage Practices

Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker-Dealers

As a fee-only financial planner who does not offer Investment Management Services, SEF does not have any affiliation with Broker-Dealers.

1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits

We currently do not receive soft dollar benefits.

2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

We receive no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that brokerdealer or third party.

3. Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use

As a fee-only financial planner who does not offer Investment Management Services, we do not have a concern over which broker-dealers a Client may choose in order to implement our investment recommendations.

Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts

Some Registered Investment Advisers execute Client accounts on an aggregated basis as a way to lower expenses. As a fee-only financial planner who does not offer Investment Management Services, we do not execute trades on behalf of Clients. As a result, it is up to the Client to negotiate their own trading costs with their broker-dealer.

Item 13: Review of Accounts

Matthew Sheers, Owner and CCO of SEF, will work with Clients to obtain current information regarding their assets and investment holdings and will review this information as part of our financial planning services. SEF does not provide specific reports to Clients, other than financial plans.

Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our Clients. Nor do we, directly or indirectly, compensate any person who is not advisory personnel for Client referrals. Clients engaging in our Financial Planning Service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing a detailed financial plan.

Item 15: Custody

SEF does not accept custody of Client funds.

Item 16: Investment Discretion

We do not provide Investment Management Services, and therefore do not exercise discretion.

Item 17: Voting Client Securities

SEF does not provide Investment Management Services and does not vote Client securities.

Item 18: Financial Information

We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to Clients, nor have we been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding. We do not have custody of Client funds or securities or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per Client six months in advance.

Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisors

Principal Officers

Matthew Sheers serves as SEF's sole principal. Information about Matthew Sheers's education, business background, and outside business activities can be found on his ADV Part 2B, Brochure Supplement attached to this Brochure.

Other Business Activities All outside business information, if applicable, of SEF is disclosed in Item 10 of this Brochure.

Performance-Based Fees

Neither SEF nor Matthew Sheers is compensated by performance-based fees.

Material Disciplinary Disclosures

No management person at SEF has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities

SEF nor Matthew Sheers have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities, in addition to what is described in Item 10.



SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL LLC

Enterprise Center One Bridge Street, #206 Plymouth, NH 03264 845-527-9062

Dated March 2024

Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

For

Matthew Sheers, CFA, CFP®

Owner and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Matthew Sheers that supplements the SHEER EMPOWERMENT FINANCIAL LLC ("SEF") brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Matthew Sheers if the SEF brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Matthew Sheers is available on the SEC's website at <u>www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</u> which can be found using the identification number 5087660.

Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

Matthew Sheers, CFA, CFP®

Born: 1984

Educational Background

• 2006 – BA in Economics, Wheaton College (MA)

Business Experience

- 12/2021 Present, Sheer Empowerment Financial, LLC, Owner and CCO
- 07/2020 Present, Sheer Empowerment Health Coaching, LLC, Owner
- 09/2022 Present, Karuna Labs, Inc, Health & Wellness Coach
- 06/2006 01/2018, CIBC Wealth Management, Senior Investment Analyst

Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams

CFP (Certified Financial Planner)[®]**:** The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERTM, CFP[®] and federally registered CFP (with flame design) marks (collectively, the "CFP[®] marks") are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board").

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with Clients. Currently, more than 71,000 individuals have obtained CFP® certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

Education – Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;

- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and Client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
- Experience Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics Agree to be bound by CFP Board's *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the *Code of Ethics* and other parts of the *Standards of Professional Conduct*, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field.
- Ethics Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*. The *Standards* prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their Clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board's enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA): The CFA Program is a graduate-level self-study program that combines a broad-based curriculum of investment principles with professional conduct requirements. It is designed to prepare charter holders for a wide range of investment specialties that apply in every market all over the world. To earn a CFA charter, applicants study for three exams (Levels I, II, III) using an assigned curriculum. Upon passing all three exams and meeting the professional and ethical requirements, they are awarded a charter.

Item 3: Disciplinary Information

Matthew Sheers has never been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

Item 4: Other Business Activities

Matthew Sheers is currently employed as a Pain Management Coach for Karuna Labs, Inc. This activity accounts for approximately 30% of his time. Matthew Sheers is also currently employed as Owner of

Sheer Empowerment Coaching where he provides private pain management coaching. This activity accounts for approximately 10% of his time.

Item 5: Additional Compensation

Matthew Sheers does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing Clients advisory services through SEF.

Item 6: Supervision

Matthew Sheers as Chief Compliance Officer of SEF, is the sole investment adviser representative. Should there be additional representatives in the future, Matthew Sheers would be responsible for their supervision. Matthew Sheers is bound by SEF's Code of Ethics. Clients may contact Matthew Sheers at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

Matthew Sheers has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.