# Item 1: Cover Page for Part 2A of Form ADV: Appendix 1 Wrap Fee Program Brochure March 27, 2024

#### **ZHANG FINANCIAL LLC**

doing business as

### **ZHANG FINANCIAL**

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This wrap fee program brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Zhang Financial LLC (hereinafter referred to as "Zhang Financial", "us", "we", or "our firm"). If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact our Chief Compliance Officer by telephone at (269) 385-5888 or by email at <a href="mailto:lynn.chenzhang@zhangfinancial.com">lynn.chenzhang@zhangfinancial.com</a>. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or by any state securities authority.

Additional information about Zhang Financial is also available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>. You can search this site by our name or a unique identifying number known as the CRD Number. Our CRD# is 159257.

Registration with the SEC or the use of the term "registered investment adviser" and description of Zhang Financial and/or our associates as "registered" does not imply a certain level of skill or training. You are encouraged to review this Wrap Fee Program Brochure, the Firm Brochure, the Form CRS and the Brochure Supplements for more information on the qualifications of our firm and our employees.

# <u>Item 2: Material Changes to Part 2A of Form ADV: Appendix 1</u> <u>Wrap Fee Program Brochure</u>

This Item discusses only the material changes that have occurred since Zhang Financial's last update March 27, 2023. We have no material changes to report. Other non-substantive changes may have been made hereto and as such, we urge you to read this Wrap Fee Program Brochure in its entirety.

## **Item 3: Table of Contents**

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#### **Item 4: Services, Fees, and Compensation**

Zhang Financial is a fee-only registered investment adviser based in Portage, Michigan. The purpose of this Wrap Fee Program Brochure ("Wrap Brochure") is to describe and disclose the services, fees, potential conflicts of interest, and other necessary information clients should consider prior to becoming a client of the Zhang Financial's investment advisory programs covered in this Wrap Brochure. For a complete description of other services and fee arrangements offered by our firm, clients should refer to our Form ADV Part 2 ("Firm Brochure"). You may obtain a copy of the Firm's Brochure by mailing your request to 5931 Oakland Dr., Portage, MI. 49024, Attn: Compliance Department, or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:lynn.chenzhang@zhangfinancial.com">lynn.chenzhang@zhangfinancial.com</a> or call (269) 385-5888. The information contained herein is current as of the date of this Brochure and is subject to change at Zhang Financial's discretion. Please retain this Wrap Brochure for your records.

We offer wrap fee programs, as defined under Rule 204-3(g)(4) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, that are described in this Wrap Brochure. Our wrap fee accounts are managed on an individualized basis according to the client's investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance and other similar determining factors. As part of our asset management services, we generally create a portfolio, consisting of no load mutual funds, individual stocks or bonds, and/or exchange traded funds ("ETFs"). The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to his or her specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned securities. Each portfolio will be designed to meet a particular investment goal, which we determine to be suitable to the client's circumstances. Once the appropriate portfolio has been determined, we review the portfolio at least quarterly and if necessary, rebalance the portfolio based upon the client's individual needs, stated goals, and objectives.

#### Wrap Fees

A "wrap fee arrangement" is one in which a single fee is charged based on the market value of assets in the client's account which includes the management fee and transaction costs for the purchase and sale of securities.

We offer a wrap fee account program for which we agree to pay all trading costs associated with the transactions in such account.

Our firm's annual fees for investment management services provided under our various Client Agreements is a specified percentage negotiated and agreed to with our clients. Our fees are billed on a pro-rata annualized basis, paid quarterly in advance based on the value of a client's account as of the last day of the previous quarter. Our Asset Management Wrap Fee Program Fee Schedule is as follows:

#### **Zhang Financial Fee Structure**

Market Value of the Account(s)	Percent Annual Fee
\$1,000,000 - \$2,500,000	1.00%
\$2,500,000 - \$5,000,000	0.90%
\$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000	0.80%
\$10,000,000 and above	Negotiable

The annual fee is determined based on a percentage of the total value of all accounts the client has with us and will be applied to all accounts regardless of the value of each individual account. Unlike many companies who use tiered rates, which means you only receive the lower rates on a portion of your account, the above rates are flat. You will be charged the applicable rates shown on the entire total account balance. We have a minimum annual fee of \$3,000 per client.

However, the firm reserves the right to charge a fee that may be different from the percentages based on client circumstances it deems pertinent. The fee on accounts with a value lower than \$1,000,000 is negotiated and generally does not exceed 1.2%. Please note that we generally do not accept accounts lower than \$1,000,000.

A wrap fee program allows our clients to pay a specified fee for investment advisory services and the execution of transactions. The advisory services include portfolio management, and the fee is not based directly upon transactions in a client's account. This fee is bundled with our costs for executing transactions in your account(s). Zhang Financial primarily offers wrap fee accounts for individual discretionary accounts. While we do not charge our clients higher advisory fees based on their trading activity, you should be aware that we may have an incentive to limit the trading activities in your account(s) because we are charged for executed trades. By participating in our wrap fee program, you may end up paying either more or less than you would through a non-wrap fee program because in a non-wrap fee program, a lower advisory fee may be charged, however, trade execution costs are passed directly to you by the executing broker.

#### Other Fees

In addition to the wrap fee discussed above, you may also pay custodial fees, charges imposed directly by a mutual fund, index fund, or exchange traded fund (such as fund management fees and other fund expenses, each of which shall be disclosed in the fund's prospectus), mark-ups and mark-downs, spreads paid to market makers, fees for trades executed away from custodian, wire transfer fees, electronic fund transfer fees, third-party reporting platform fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts, investments and investment transactions. These fees are not included within the wrap fee you are charged by our firm.

#### **Item 5: Account Requirements and Types of Clients**

We impose the following requirement(s) to open or maintain an account with us. This minimum also applies to accounts that are subject to our wrap fee program:

• Generally, a minimum total account size of \$1,000,000. This account minimum may be waived in certain circumstances and in our sole discretion.

The types of clients we typically manage wrap fee accounts on behalf of, include:

- Individuals and High Net-Worth Individuals;
- Trusts, Estates or Charitable Organizations;
- Pension and Profit Sharing Plans; and
- Corporations, limited liability companies and/or other business types.

#### **Item 6: Portfolio Manager Selection and Evaluation**

All Zhang Financial accounts subject to our wrap fee program are managed by our in-house portfolio managers. These portfolio managers are selected using the same selection procedures as those portfolio managers who may not manage accounts subject to our wrap fee program. Our firm does not utilize outside portfolio managers.

Our wrap fee accounts are managed on an individualized basis according to the client's investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance and other determining factors. Currently all our discretionary accounts are wrap fee accounts.

We generally do not allow clients to impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing their account.

We conduct periodic reviews to measure the performance of all our portfolio managers and such performance is measured against the individual goals and objectives of each client. As such, performance information cannot be calculated on a uniform and consistent basis.

#### **Advisory Business**

We emphasize continuous and regular account supervision. As part of our asset management service, we generally create a portfolio that may consist of, but is not limited to, individual stocks or bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), mutual funds and other public securities or investments. The client's individual investment strategy is tailored to their specific needs and may include some or all of the previously mentioned investments or securities. Each portfolio will be designed to meet a client's particular investment goal, as communicated to us, which we determine to be suitable to the client's circumstances.

As part of our asset management services, we also provide pension-consulting services to employer plan sponsors on a one-time or ongoing basis. Generally, such pension consulting services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include investment options, plan structure and participant education. This applies to client accounts that are pension or other employee benefit plans ("Plan") governed by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

If the client accounts are part of a Plan, and we accept appointments to provide our services to such accounts, we acknowledge that we are a fiduciary within the meaning of Section 3(21) of ERISA (but only with respect to the provision of services described in our Pension Consulting Agreement). When we provide investment advice to clients regarding retirement plan account(s) or individual retirement account(s), we also fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/ or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts.

We also provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to individuals, families and other clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of the client's current situation, goals, and objectives. Generally, such financial planning services will involve the preparation of a financial plan or rendering a financial consultation for clients based on the client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more of the following areas: Investment Planning, Retirement Planning, Corporate and Personal Tax Planning, Wealth Management Strategies, Retirement Distribution Strategy, Asset Allocation, Net Worth and or Cash Flow Analysis, Corporate Structure, Insurance Analysis, Employee Stock Option Planning, and Business and Personal Financial Planning.

Our written financial plans or financial consultations rendered to clients usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the clients. For example, recommendations may be made that the clients begin or revise investment programs, create or revise wills or trusts, obtain or revise insurance coverage, commence or alter retirement savings, or establish education or charitable giving programs. We refer clients to an accountant, attorney, or other specialist, as necessary for non-

advisory related services. In the alternative, and as part of our services, we may also engage other professionals, selected by us, for the purposes of preparing tax plans or estate plans on behalf of our clients.

For written financial planning engagements, we provide our clients with an initial written summary of their financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For financial consulting engagements, we usually do not provide our clients with a written summary of our observations and recommendations. Plans or consultations are typically completed within six (6) months of the client signing a contract with us, assuming that all the information and documents we request from the client are provided to us promptly. Implementation of the recommendations will be at the discretion of the client.

#### **Institutional Advisory Services**

In addition to the services above, Zhang Financial also provides investment advisory services to the following groups of clients: pension and profit sharing plans, charitable organizations and municipal government entities. Under this arrangement, we provide continuous investment advisory services to institutional clients, including, recommending asset allocation, providing research and performing back office functions. However, the institutional clients retain sole discretion to determine whether to implement our advice and/or recommendations.

#### Individual Tailoring of Advice to Clients

We offer individualized investment advice to clients utilizing our Asset Management services. On the other hand, we offer general investment advice to clients utilizing our Financial Planning and Consulting, and Pension Consulting services.

We typically do not allow clients to impose restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities due to the level of difficulty this would entail in managing their account. In the rare instance that we would allow restrictions, it would be limited to our Asset Management services.

#### <u>Participation in wrap fee programs</u>

We offer wrap fee programs which are managed on an individualized basis according to the client's investment objectives, financial goals, risk tolerance and other determining factors. As described in our Wrap Fee Program Brochure, we receive 100% of the fees due under our Wrap Fee Program.

#### Performance Based Fees and Side-by-Side Management

We do not charge performance fees to our clients.

#### Methods of analysis, investment strategies and risk of loss

Zhang Financial uses the following in formulating investment advice or managing assets.

#### **Methods of Analysis:**

Fundamental – This type of analysis involves analyzing a company's financial statements, its management, competitors, markets and its competitive advantages. This type of analysis puts a focus on the overall state of the economy, interest rates, production, and earnings. We adhere to disciplined investment parameters and our portfolios may include investments in undervalued companies. We are not concerned with short-term fluctuations of market price and instead put more importance on a company's value.

Technical - This involves an analysis of past market movements and does not consider the underlying financial condition of a particular company. Through technical analysis, we attempt to determine and recognize recurring patterns in investor behavior in relation to a particular company. Through the use of this analysis, we are able to potentially predict future price movement of certain securities.

Cyclical - This type of analysis involves measuring the movements of a particular stock or sector against the overall market in an attempt to predict the price movement of the security.

#### *<u>Investment Strategies:</u>*

- Long term purchases (securities held at least a year);
- Short term purchases (securities sold within a year);
- Trading (securities sold within 30 days);
- Margin transactions; and
- Option writing, including covered options, uncovered options or spreading Strategies.

#### <u>Certain Risks Associated with Methods of Analysis and Investment Strategies</u>

The use of the methods of analysis described above may not be sufficient to accurately indicate the movement of particular securities or their future performance. In addition, there is also the risk that a poorly managed or financially unsound company may underperform regardless of market movement and past performance trends as they do not guarantee future results.

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. While the stock market may increase and clients' accounts could enjoy a gain, it is also possible that the stock market may decrease and clients' accounts could suffer a loss. It is important that clients understand that all investment activities involve a degree of risks, including the possible risk of loss of their entire investment, as well as the gains earned thereon. Some of

these risks are briefly described below.

Highly Volatile Markets - The prices of the instruments traded and held in client accounts have been subject to periods of excessive volatility in the past, and such periods can be expected to continue. Price movements are influenced by factors which we may be unable to predict, such as market sentiment, inflation rates, interest rate movements and general economic, environmental, natural, human health, pandemic, and political conditions. In addition, governments may, from time to time, intervene, directly and through regulation, in certain markets, particularly those in currencies, financial instruments, futures and options. Such intervention often is intended to directly influence prices and may, together with other factors, cause all of such markets to move rapidly in the same direction because of, among other things, interest rate fluctuations.

Stagnant Markets - Although volatility is one indication of market risk, some of the investment strategies we employ rely on the existence of market volatility to either result in, or contribute to, a mispricing that we can identify and exploit to create profitability. In periods of stagnant markets and/or deflation, alternative investment strategies have materially diminished prospects for profitability.

Market Disruptions - Client accounts may incur material losses in the event of disrupted markets and other extraordinary events in which historical pricing relationships become materially distorted. The financing available to clients from banks, dealers and other counterparties is likely to be restricted in disrupted markets. Market disruptions caused by unexpected political, economic, military, human health, natural, pandemic, and terrorist events may from time to time cause dramatic losses for clients, and such events can result in otherwise historically low-risk strategies performing with unprecedented volatility and risk.

Institutional Risk - Institutions, including brokerage firms, counterparties and banks with which clients may trade or invest, may default or encounter financial difficulties that impair their operational capabilities or clients' capital positions. Clients are also subject to the risk that the exchanges on which their positions trade or the clearinghouses that the exchanges use may fail, which could also impair clients' capital positions.

Leverage – Clients or funds may borrow funds from brokerage firms, banks and other available sources in order to be able to increase the amount available for investment. In addition, clients or funds may in effect borrow funds through entering into repurchase agreements, and may purchase or sell options, forwards and other derivative instruments. The amount of borrowings which clients or funds may have outstanding at any time may be large in relation to their actual capital. Consequently, the rates at which clients or funds can borrow will affect the profitability of the client's account. Leverage has the effect of magnifying both profits and losses compared with unleveraged positions.

Short-term borrowings - In the event that the securities pledged to brokers to secure a client's margin account decline in value, the client could be subject to a "margin call"

pursuant to which the client would either have to deposit additional funds with the broker or suffer mandatory liquidation of the pledged securities to compensate for the decline in value. In the event of a sudden precipitous drop in the value of a client's assets, the client may not be able to liquidate assets quickly enough to pay off its margin debt and the client may therefore also suffer additional significant losses as a result of its default.

Interest Rate Risk - The value of the fixed-rate securities in which clients invest generally will have an inverse relationship with interest rates. Accordingly, if interest rates rise, the value of such securities may decline. In addition, to the extent that the receivables or loans underlying specific securities are pre-payable, the value of such securities may be negatively affected by increasing prepayments, which generally occur when interest rates decline.

Currency Risk - Overseas investments and companies with overseas business are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.

Illiquid Securities - Clients may be invested in securities, loans and other financial instruments, which are not actively or widely traded. Consequently, it may be relatively difficult to dispose of such investments rapidly and at favorable prices and such securities may also be more difficult to value.

Futures Contracts and Futures Options – We may trade or the fund managers may trade futures and futures options for speculative or hedging purposes. The prices of such contracts are highly volatile. Because of the low margin deposits normally required in futures trading, a high degree of leverage is typical of a futures trading account. As a result, a relatively small price movement in a futures contract may result in substantial losses to clients. Commodity exchanges limit fluctuations in futures contract prices during a single day. During a single trading day, trades may not be executed at prices beyond the "daily limit." Once the price of a futures contract for a particular commodity has increased or decreased by an amount equal to the daily limit, positions in the commodity can be neither taken nor liquidated unless market participants are willing to effect trades at or within the limit.

Concentration of Investments - From time to time, a significant portion of a client's account assets may be concentrated in a particular security, industry, market, or country. Should such security, industry, market or country become subject to adverse financial conditions, account assets shall not be afforded the protection otherwise available through greater diversification of investments.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) - ETFs are typically investment companies that are legally classified as open end mutual funds or UITs. However, they differ from traditional mutual funds, in particular, in that ETF shares are listed on a securities exchange. Shares can be bought and sold throughout the trading day like shares of other publicly traded companies and the market price for a share of an ETF may fluctuate from the value of its underlying

securities. Consequently, ETF shares may trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. This difference between the bid price and the ask price is often referred to as the "spread", which generally varies based on the ETF's trading volume and market liquidity. Although many ETFs are registered as an investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, some ETFs, in particular those that invest in commodities, are not registered as investment companies.

Risks for all forms of analysis - Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies and funds whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

The discussion of the risks above is not meant to be a complete description of all the risks that clients may face. Additional risks are disclosed by the funds in their prospectuses. Clients should be prepared to bear the risks of their investments.

#### **Voting client securities**

We do not and will not accept the proxy authority to vote client securities, although in the future we may choose to vote proxies for clients governed under ERISA. Clients will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from their custodian or a transfer agent. In the event that proxies are sent to our firm, we will strive to forward them on to you and ask the party who sent them to mail them directly to you in the future. As the client is responsible for voting their proxies, clients cannot direct Zhang Financial to vote in a particular solicitation. In addition, clients maintain exclusive responsibility for making all elections relative to any mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, bankruptcy proceedings, class or mass actions, legal proceedings or other events pertaining to the securities held in client accounts. Clients may call (269) 385-5888, write or email us to discuss questions they may have about particular proxy votes or other solicitations.

#### **Item 7: Client Information Provided to Portfolio Managers**

Our firm communicates with its portfolio managers on a regular basis as needed (daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) to ensure that each client's most current investment goals and objectives are communicated to and understood by the portfolio manager(s). In most cases, we will communicate all relevant information as part of our regular investment management duties in order to ensure that your portfolio manager is aware of your particular objectives and acts accordingly. We will also communicate information to your portfolio managers when a client requests us to, or when market or economic conditions make it prudent to do so.

#### **Item 8: Client Contact with Portfolio Managers**

We do not impose any restrictions on our clients' ability to directly contact their portfolio managers regarding any questions or concerns they have about their portfolios or other matters.

#### **Item 9: Additional Information**

#### **Disciplinary Information**

Zhang Financial has nothing to report under this Item 9.

#### **Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

Neither Zhang Financial nor any of its management persons are registered or have an application pending to register as a broker-dealer, registered representative of a broker-dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator, commodity trading advisor, or an associated person of the foregoing entities and is not engaged in any other financial activities.

Neither Zhang Financial nor any of its management persons have affiliations with broker-dealers, municipal securities dealers or government securities dealers, investment companies or other pooled investment vehicles, other unrelated investment advisers or financial planners, futures commodity merchant, commodity pool operator or commodity trading advisor, banking or thrift institutions, accountants or accounting firms other than as discussed below, lawyers or law firms, insurance company or agency, pension consultant, real estate broker or dealer or sponsor or syndicator of limited partnerships.

Lynn Chen-Zhang, our CEO and Chief Compliance Officer, is the owner of Lynn Chen-Zhang, CPA, PLC, an entity that provides tax preparation services. Lynn Chen-Zhang, CPA, PLC provides Zhang Financial clients with tax services as requested by the client generally for additional fees and under a separate engagement. No client is required to purchase tax services through Lynn Chen-Zhang, CPA, PLC and have the option to purchase those services elsewhere. Some clients may have these services included as part of the client relationship. We do not believe that these associations pose a conflict of interest, as additional services requested are billed separately.

We do not recommend or select other investment advisers for our clients and therefore cannot receive any compensation directly or indirectly from those other investment advisers.

#### Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

In order to prevent conflicts of interest, we have in place a set of procedures (including preclearing and insider trading procedures) in our Firm Code of Ethics with respect to transactions affected by our members, officers and employees for their personal accounts. In order to monitor compliance with our personal trading policy, we have quarterly and annual securities transaction reporting requirements.

We require all of our supervised persons to conduct business with the highest level of ethical conduct and to comply with securities laws at all times. Upon employment with Zhang Financial, and at least annually thereafter, all supervised persons are required to sign an acknowledgement that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with our Code of Ethics. If a client or a potential client wishes to receive a copy of our Code of Ethics in its entirety, they may request a copy by contacting us via telephone at (269) 385-5888 or via email at <a href="mailto:lynn.chenzhang@zhangfinancial.com">lynn.chenzhang@zhangfinancial.com</a>.

Our firm, as well as individuals associated with our firm, may buy or sell for their personal accounts securities that are identical to those recommended or purchased for client accounts. In addition, associated individuals of our firm may buy or sell securities for themselves at or about the same time they buy or sell the same securities for client accounts. This practice creates a conflict of interest in that Zhang Financial or individuals associated with us may have an incentive not to recommend the sale of securities held by clients in order to protect the value of their personal investment. Such conflict of interest is addressed in our Code of Ethics, which requires all personnel to always place client interests ahead of their own and to adhere to the procedures set forth in our firm's Code of Ethics relating to these transactions. Further, the firm periodically reviews the personal transactions of its personnel to determine whether any conflicts of interest arise with respect to their personal trading activities.

#### **Review of accounts**

Accounts are reviewed at least annually for any changes in suitability factors. In addition, accounts are reviewed quarterly for return dispersion and to ensure adherence to asset allocation. Accounts are also reviewed upon the occurrence of certain triggering events such as, but not limited to, receipt of additional assets, change in a client's financial condition, a significant change in the market environment, upon request by a client, or upon a request to liquidate or distribute a significant portion of the portfolio. Zhang Financial's designated Financial Advisors or Portfolio Managers conduct such reviews.

We do not provide written reports to clients, unless asked to do so. Generally, verbal reports to clients take place on at least an annual basis when we meet with clients that engage our Asset Management services.

The custodians holding client funds and securities are required to provide clients with written confirmation of every securities transaction in their respective accounts, along with a brokerage statement, at least quarterly.

#### **Client referrals and other compensation**

We do not receive any economic benefits from any outside firms who provide investment advice or other advisory services to our clients. In addition, we do not compensate any person who is not a supervised person for any client referred to Zhang Financial.

#### **Additional Legal and Financial Disclosures**

We do not have any financial commitments that might impair our current or future ability to meet our contractual commitments to clients.