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Fed Expands Emergency Program to Include Muni Funds After Rout.

- Move seen as 'starting point' for battered muni bond market
- Fed could expand program to include variable-rate debt

The Federal Reserve <u>said</u> Friday it had expanded its emergency program to provide liquidity to money market mutual funds, allowing the purchase of assets from single-state and other tax-exempt municipal money market funds.

Shares of BlackRock Inc.'s iShares National Muni Bond ETF, the biggest municipal-bond exchange-traded fund, traded higher after the announcement.

"Thank you to @federalreserve," U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a tweet. "Today I approved the expansion of the Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility to include municipal securities. This will create additional liquidity to support the states and municipalities!"

Continue reading.

Bloomberg Economics

By Christopher Condon, Danielle Moran, and Amanda Albright

March 20, 2020, 8:00 AM PDT Updated on March 20, 2020, 10:36 AM PDT

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