

**LIFE  
INSURANCE**

Index-Linked Universal with GDR



**Brighthouse**  
FINANCIAL®  
Build for what's ahead®

# Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus®

## Future Preparation Guide



Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus is an index-linked flexible premium adjustable life insurance policy with a Guaranteed Distribution Rider (GDR).





# We Can't Predict the Future – But You Can Prepare for It

Consider a strategy that offers protection today and flexibility for the future.

As you build toward retirement, it's important to consider how the financial products contained in your portfolio will complement your life in the future. Even if you feel financially secure today, many factors outside of your control could impact your savings and, should the unexpected happen, you want to feel confident that your family's financial security is protected.

Fortunately, some life insurance products can help protect your loved ones while offering more than just a death benefit.<sup>1</sup> It may be time to consider a life insurance policy that also provides:

- Index-linked growth opportunities for the policy's cash value
- Some protection from market loss
- A reliable way to supplement your retirement income<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Generally, life insurance policies provide for tax-deferred earnings growth potential as well as a tax-free death benefit and may provide a way to supplement your income in retirement through policy loans. While a life insurance policy's death benefit is generally income tax free, exceptions may apply. Other taxes including estate, gift, or generation-skipping transfer taxes may also apply. If life insurance policy loans are taken, there may be income tax consequences if the policy is classified as a modified endowment contract (MEC), if the policy lapses, or if the policy is surrendered or exchanged. Consult with a tax professional.

# Planning for Market Volatility

Market performance can take on greater importance as you near retirement.

No one can predict what the markets will do. However, having a strategy to help counter unpredictable markets can be key to achieving your financial goals.

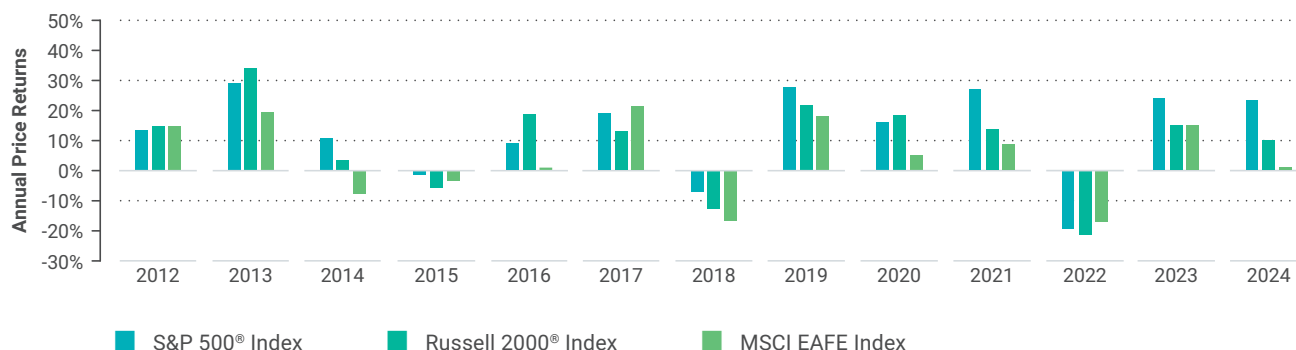
Over the long term, history has shown that equities can be a powerful way to help grow your assets and keep pace with inflation. But caution is warranted. Over the short term, equities can stumble and may not always travel in an upward direction.

Let's look at the illustrated returns from three major market indices from 2012 to 2024. Although each index consists of large-cap, small-cap, or international stocks,<sup>2</sup> take note of how returns in these indices have varied – even during past positive runs.

---

<sup>2</sup> Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against a loss. Brighthouse Financial has the right to substitute an index prior to the end of a term if an index is discontinued or we determine that our use of such index should be discontinued.

## Historical Annual Price Returns<sup>3</sup>



## Did you know?

### S&P 500 Index<sup>A</sup>

Over the past 68 calendar years, the S&P 500 Index has experienced losses at the end of 18 of those years.

#### Of those 18 down years:

- 5 years experienced a loss of greater than 15%
- 7 years experienced a loss of 10-15%
- 6 years experienced a loss of less than 10%

### Russell 2000 Index<sup>B</sup>

Over the past 46 calendar years, the Russell 2000 Index has experienced losses at the end of 14 of those years.

#### Of those 14 down years:

- 4 years experienced a loss of greater than 15%
- 2 years experienced a loss of 10-15%
- 8 years experienced a loss of less than 10%

### MSCI EAFE Index<sup>C</sup>

Over the past 55 calendar years, the MSCI EAFE Index has experienced losses at the end of 18 of those years.

#### Of those 18 down years:

- 9 years experienced a loss of greater than 15%
- 3 years experienced a loss of 10-15%
- 6 years experienced a loss of less than 10%

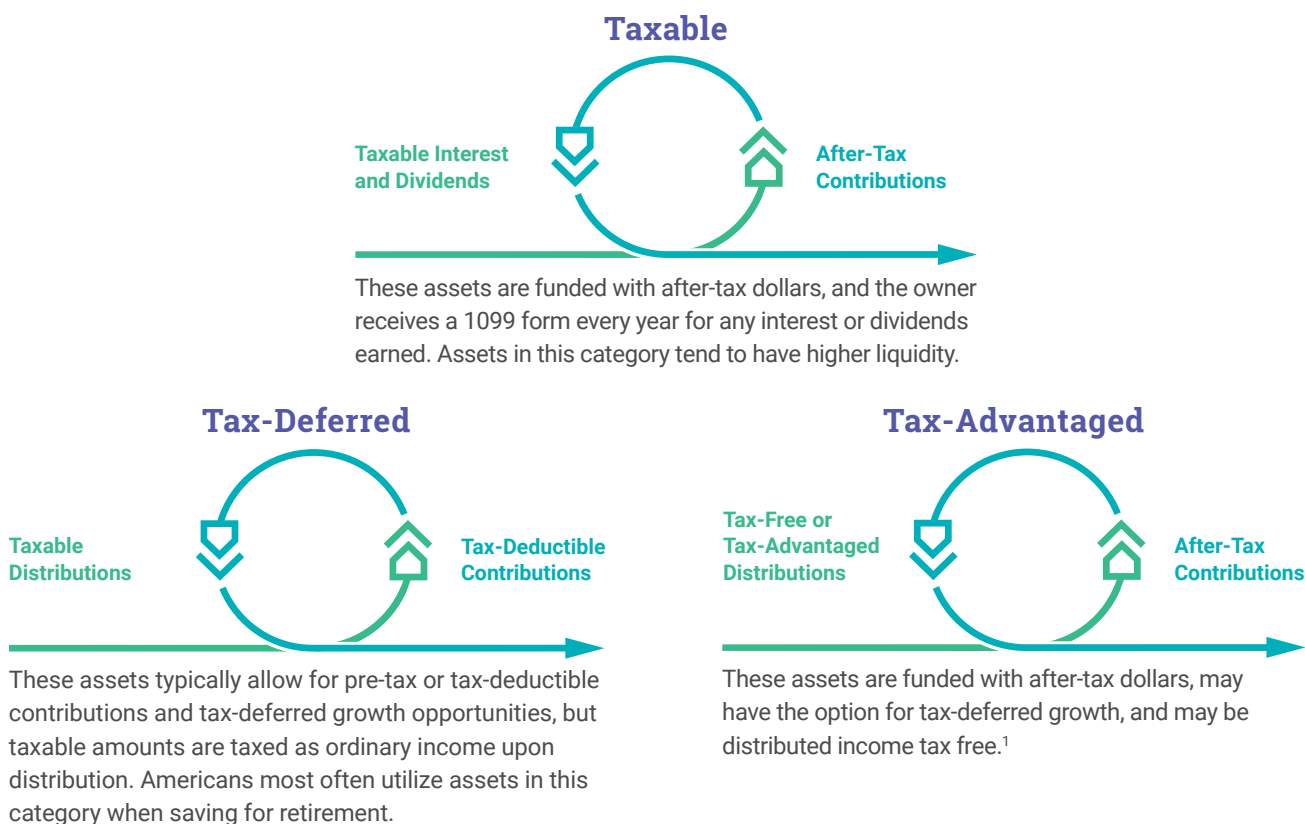
Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Market indices referenced are not managed and are used as a measurement of the value of a section of the stock market. Information about indices is provided to illustrate historical market trends and does not represent the performance of any specific investment. Performance does not include dividends. This product does not invest directly in any index.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Bloomberg, January 2025.

# Assembling a Tax-Diverse Mix of Assets

Having the right mix of assets now can help limit the impact of taxes in the future. Not all retirement assets are taxed the same way. Understanding how various investments and financial products are taxed can help you limit the impact of taxes on your overall retirement strategy.

One way to think about your assets, including life insurance, is to consider their tax treatment. Assets typically fall into one of the three general categories listed below. Although life insurance is not a retirement plan and life insurance premiums are generally not tax-deductible, adding life insurance to a tax-diversified portfolio can help by providing a generally tax-free death benefit, tax-deferred growth opportunity for cash values, and a tax-advantaged way to supplement your income in retirement.



# Help Strengthen Your Future With Growth Opportunities and More

Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus® is designed to help reduce the effect that any one factor can have on your portfolio.

Building a strong financial future means protecting your wealth and generating the resources you need to meet the goals you've set. Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus is a life insurance product that can help by offering:

- A death benefit to help ensure your family's financial security
- Index-linked growth opportunities for the policy's cash value
- A choice of buffers that offer a level of protection from market loss
- A source of tax-advantaged guaranteed Distribution Payments<sup>4</sup>

As an index-linked life insurance product, Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus tracks the performance of one or more market indices and does not invest directly in the markets. Once Distribution Payments begin, all policy values are transferred to the Fixed Account and there is no further participation in index-linked market performance.

You may understand how life insurance can help your loved ones continue their lifestyle if you pass away, but have you considered the benefits some life insurance products can provide during your lifetime? Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus is a life insurance policy that can also serve as an effective addition to your retirement portfolio.

---

<sup>4</sup> Available after the 10th policy year, Distribution Payments under the GDR are in the form of policy loans and can significantly reduce the unloaned cash value and death benefit amount. When the cash value reaches zero, the GDR will continue to support the availability of Distribution Payments. See the prospectus for more details. A policy loan is generally not treated as a taxable distribution, but exceptions may apply. Consult with a tax professional.





# Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus



## Growth Opportunities and a Level of Protection

By participating in index-linked growth strategies, policy values can potentially grow with a level of protection from market loss to help meet future goals.



## Guaranteed Distribution Payments

This life insurance product provides a source of tax-advantaged guaranteed Distribution Payments that will never fall below a guaranteed minimum amount.<sup>4</sup>



## Guaranteed Death Benefit

Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus helps provide security for loved ones through a guaranteed death benefit that's generally income tax free.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Policy loans may significantly reduce the death benefit; however, the GDR guarantees a minimum death benefit amount, assuming the policy and GDR remain in force. While the death benefit is generally income tax free, exceptions may apply. Other taxes including estate, gift, or generation-skipping transfer taxes may also apply. Consult with a tax professional.



## How It Works

After your Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus policy has been in force for at least 10 years, the Guaranteed Distribution Rider (GDR), which is automatically included with your policy on the issue date for an additional charge, allows you to take guaranteed payments from the policy's cash value to supplement your retirement income. The Guaranteed Minimum Distribution Payment amount – the minimum amount guaranteed to be available to you annually as a Distribution Payment – is defined at issue and varies based on how long you wait to take payments as well as the frequency of those payments, among other factors. Unlike the Maximum Distribution Payments, the Guaranteed Minimum Distribution Payment amount doesn't grow based on index performance but increases every 5 years up to age 70 until the GDR is exercised.

You may choose your Distribution Payment amount, subject to the Maximum Distribution Payment amount, and you can choose to stop receiving payments at any time. Additionally, Maximum Distribution Payment amounts not taken in full, or at all, after your Distribution Start Date are payable as a One-Time Payment, which is separate from your scheduled Distribution Payments.

## Important Information About the GDR

Once Distribution Payments begin, all policy values are transferred to the Fixed Account and there is no further participation in index-linked market performance.

Separate from your scheduled Distribution Payments, a One-Time Payment can only be elected once. This amount cannot exceed the lesser of \$150,000 or three times your Maximum Distribution Payment.

Distribution Payments and One-Time Payments are paid from the policy's cash value and are in the form of policy loans. Upon payment, the Fixed Account cash value is reduced by the amount of the loan, which is transferred to the Loan Account. The GDR will increase your policy's cash value as necessary to prevent these loans from causing your policy to lapse.

After your Distribution Start Date, if you take policy loans in excess of the amount available to you as a Maximum Distribution Payment or One-Time Payment, the GDR will terminate. When the GDR has terminated, your policy's cash value will no longer receive any increase from the GDR and, without repayment of outstanding loans, your policy may lapse. Loan balances are charged interest at a rate of no more than 8% annually.



# Build a Brighter Future

Your financial professional can help you determine if Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus may work for your future plans.

---

Visit [brighthousefinancial.com](https://brighthousefinancial.com) for additional information and resources.

# We're Brighthouse Financial

We are on a mission to help people achieve financial security.

As one of the largest providers of annuities and life insurance in the U.S.,<sup>6</sup> we specialize in products designed to help people protect what they've earned and ensure it lasts. We are built on a foundation of experience and knowledge, which allows us to keep our promises and provide the value they deserve.

---

<sup>6</sup> Ranked by 2023 admitted assets. Best's Review®: Top 200 U.S. Life/Health Insurers. AM Best, 2024.

- <sup>A</sup> The S&P 500<sup>®</sup> is a product of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC or its affiliates ("SPDJ") and has been licensed for use by Brighthouse Financial, Inc. S&P<sup>®</sup>, S&P 500<sup>®</sup>, US 500, The 500, iBoxx<sup>®</sup>, iTraxx<sup>®</sup> and CDX<sup>®</sup> are trademarks of S&P Global, Inc. or its affiliates ("S&P"); Dow Jones<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC ("Dow Jones"); and these trademarks have been licensed for use by SPDJI and sublicensed for certain purposes by Brighthouse Financial, Inc. Brighthouse Financial products are not sponsored, endorsed, sold, or promoted by SPDJI, Dow Jones, S&P, or their respective affiliates; and none of such parties make any representation regarding the advisability of investing in such products, nor do they have any liability for any errors, omissions, or interruptions of the S&P 500<sup>®</sup>.
- <sup>B</sup> The Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index is a trademark of Russell Investments and has been licensed for use by affiliates of Brighthouse Financial, Inc. This life insurance product is not sponsored, endorsed, sold, or promoted by Russell Investments, and Russell Investments makes no representation regarding the advisability of investing in this life insurance product.
- <sup>C</sup> This life insurance product is not sponsored, endorsed, or promoted by MSCI, and MSCI bears no liability with respect to any such products or securities, or any index on which such products or securities are based. The product prospectus contains a more detailed description of the limited relationship MSCI has with affiliates of Brighthouse Financial, Inc.

**This material must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus for Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus, issued by Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, which contains information about the policy's features, risks, charges, and expenses. Clients should read the prospectus, which is available from their financial professional, and consider its information carefully before investing. Brighthouse Financial has the right to substitute an index prior to the end of a term if an index is discontinued or we determine that our use of such index should be discontinued.**

**Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus has limitations, exclusions, charges, termination provisions, and terms for keeping it in force and is not guaranteed by the broker/dealer, insurance agency, underwriter, or any affiliates of those entities from which they were purchased. All representations and policy guarantees, including the death benefit and guaranteed Distribution Payments provided by the Guaranteed Distribution Rider, are subject to the claims-paying ability and financial strength of the issuing insurance company. Because the client agrees to absorb all losses beyond their chosen Buffer Rate, there is a risk of substantial loss of principal. Please refer to "Risk Factors" in the prospectus for more details.**

Brighthouse Life Insurance Company (BLIC) holds any net premium amounts applied to an Indexed Account in a Separate Account. BLIC maintains assets in the Separate Account at least equal to the policy's required reserves, which equals the policy reserves associated with the Indexed Accounts. Required reserves do not include reserves held in the Fixed Account, reserves for outstanding loans, or reserves associated with Distribution Payments or One-Time Payments. BLIC is obligated to pay all money owed under the policy, including policy proceeds and Distribution Payments, even if that amount exceeds the assets in the Separate Account. Any such amount that exceeds the assets in the Separate Account is paid from the BLIC General Account. Amounts paid from the General Account are subject to the financial strength and claims-paying ability of BLIC and are not guaranteed by any other party.

Distribution Payments under the Guaranteed Distribution Rider are made in the form of policy loans. A policy loan is generally not treated as a taxable distribution if the policy is not a modified endowment contract (MEC) as defined under Internal Revenue Code Section 7702A and the policy remains in force during the lifetime of the insured. As a result, the company generally does not intend to report the benefits payable under the GDR to the IRS as taxable income based upon our current understanding of applicable tax law. Taxation and tax reporting may apply if the policy lapses, is surrendered, or becomes a MEC. The tax law is complex and subject to change. The company's tax reporting position may change in the future due to future IRS guidance as well as any clarifications or changes to applicable tax law. The company cannot guarantee particular tax results. Any discussion of taxes is for general informational purposes only, does not purport to be complete or cover every situation, and should not be construed as legal, tax, accounting, or fiduciary advice. Brighthouse Financial and its affiliates did not consider any individual's circumstances in preparing this information. Clients should confer with their qualified legal, tax, and accounting professionals to determine the tax consequences of the GDR and the policy.

Brighthouse SmartGuard Plus<sup>®</sup> is a registered index-linked flexible premium adjustable life insurance policy with a Guaranteed Distribution Rider (GDR) issued by, and product guarantees are solely the responsibility of, Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, Charlotte, NC 28277, on Policy Forms 5-71-22 and 5GDR-22 ("Brighthouse Financial"). This product is distributed by Brighthouse Securities, LLC (member FINRA). All are Brighthouse Financial affiliated companies. Product availability and features may vary by state or firm. This product is currently not available in New York.

Brighthouse Financial<sup>®</sup> and its design are registered trademarks of Brighthouse Financial, Inc. and/or its affiliates.

• Not a Deposit • Not FDIC Insured • Not Insured by Any Federal Government Agency  
• Not Guaranteed by Any Bank or Credit Union • May Lose Value

**Brighthouse**  
FINANCIAL<sup>®</sup> | Build for  
what's ahead<sup>®</sup>

Brighthouse Life Insurance Company  
11225 North Community House Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
brighthousefinancial.com