

NUVEEN AMT-FREE MUNICIPAL INCOME FUND
Form N-CSRS
July 08, 2013

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

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-21213

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

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

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

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

Date of fiscal year end: October 31

Date of reporting period: April 30, 2013

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

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

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

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Chairman's
Letter to Shareholders

Dear Shareholders,

After nine years of serving as lead director and independent chairman of the Nuveen Fund Board, my term of office is coming to an end. It has been a privilege to use this space to communicate with you on some of the broad economic trends in the U.S. and abroad and how they are impacting the investment environment in which your funds operate. In addition, I have enjoyed offering some perspective on how your Board views the various Nuveen investment teams as they apply their investment disciplines in that investment environment.

My term has coincided with a particularly challenging period for both mutual fund sponsors and investors. Since 2000 there have been three periods of unusually strong stock market growth and two major market declines. Recent years have been characterized by a search for yield in fixed income securities to compensate for an extended period of very low interest rates. Funds are investing more in foreign and emerging markets that require extensive research capabilities to overcome the more limited transparency and higher volatility in those markets. New fund concepts often incorporate derivative financial instruments that offer efficient ways to hedge investment risk or gain exposure to selected markets. Fund trading teams operate in many new domestic and international venues with quite different characteristics. Electronic trading and global communication networks mean that fund managers must be able to thrive in financial markets that react instantaneously to newsworthy events and are more interconnected than ever.

Nuveen has committed additional resources to respond to these changes in the fund industry environment. It has added IT and research resources to assemble and evaluate the increased flow of detailed information on economies, markets and individual companies. Based on its experience during the financial crisis of 2008-09, Nuveen has expanded its resources dedicated to valuing and trading portfolio securities with a particular focus on stressed financial market conditions. It has added systems and experienced risk management professionals to work with investment teams to better help evaluate whether their funds' risk exposures are appropriate in view of the return targets. The investment teams have also reflected on recent experience to reaffirm or modify their investment disciplines. Finally, experienced professionals and IT resources have been added to address new regulatory requirements designed to better inform and protect investors. The Board has enthusiastically encouraged these initiatives.

The Nuveen Fund Board has always viewed itself as your representatives to assure that Nuveen brings together experienced people, proven technologies and effective processes designed to produce results that meet investor expectations. It is important to note that our activities are highlighted by the annual contract renewal process. Despite its somewhat formal language, I strongly encourage you to read the summary because it offers an insight into our oversight process. The report is included in the back of this or a subsequent shareholder report. The renewal process is very comprehensive and includes a number of evaluations and discussions between the Board and Nuveen during the year. The summary also describes what has been achieved across the Nuveen fund complex and at individual funds such as yours.

As I leave the chairmanship and resume my role as a member of the Board, please be assured that I and my fellow Board members will continue to hold your interests uppermost in our minds as we oversee the management of your funds and that we greatly appreciate your confidence in your Nuveen fund.

Very sincerely,

Robert P. Bremner

Chairman of the Board
June 21, 2013

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Portfolio Managers' Comments

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

Portfolio managers Paul Brennan and Douglas White review key investment strategies and the six-month performance of these six national Funds. Paul has managed NIO, NIF, NVG and NEA since 2006 and Douglas assumed portfolio management responsibility for NQI and NPX in January 2011.

FUND REORGANIZATIONS

Effective before the opening of business on May 6, 2013 (subsequent to the close of this reporting period), certain Funds (the Acquired Funds) were reorganized into one, larger Fund included in this report (the Acquiring Fund) as follows:

Acquired Funds	Symbol	Acquiring Fund	Symbol
Nuveen Premier Municipal Opportunity Fund, Inc.	NIF	Nuveen AMT-Free Municipal Income Fund	NEA
Nuveen Premium Income Municipal Opportunity Fund	NPX		

Upon the closing of the reorganizations, the Acquired Funds transferred their assets to the Acquiring Fund in exchange for common and preferred shares of the Acquiring Funds and the assumption by the Acquiring Fund of the liabilities of the Acquired Funds. The Acquired Funds were then liquidated, dissolved and terminated in accordance with their Declaration of Trust. Shareholders of the Acquired Funds became shareholders of the Acquiring Fund. Holders of common shares of the Acquired Funds received newly issued common shares of the Acquiring Fund, the aggregate net asset value of which was equal to the aggregate net asset value of the common shares of the Acquired Funds held immediately prior to the reorganizations (including for this purpose fractional Acquiring Fund shares to which shareholders would be entitled). Fractional shares were sold on the open market and shareholders received cash in lieu of such fractional shares. Holders of preferred shares of the Acquired Funds received on a one-for-one basis newly issued preferred shares of the Acquiring Fund, in exchange for their preferred shares of the Acquired Funds held immediately prior to the reorganizations.

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

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

What key strategies were used to manage these Funds during the six-month reporting period ended April 30, 2013?

In an environment characterized by tight supply, strong demand but a slightly mixed change in yields, we continued to take a bottom-up approach to discovering sectors that appeared undervalued as well as individual credits that had the potential to perform well over the long term. However, the municipal market also encountered some additional volatility generated by the political environment, particularly the “fiscal cliff” at the end of 2012 and the approach of federal tax season. On the revenue side, state tax collections have grown for eleven straight quarters, exceeding pre-recession levels beginning in September 2011, while on the expense side, the states made headway in cutting and controlling costs. The current low level of municipal issuance reflects the current political distaste for additional borrowing by state and local governments facing fiscal constraints and the prevalent atmosphere of municipal budget austerity. During this period, we continued to see municipal yields remain relatively low, although there were some very slight upward yield changes in the longest maturities. Borrowers seeking to take advantage of the low rate environment sparked an increase in refunding activity, with approximately 50% of municipal paper issued by borrowers that were calling existing debt and refinancing at lower rates.

As previously reported, the Funds eliminated the policy requiring them to invest at least 80% of their managed assets in municipal securities covered by insurance. While each Fund continues to invest substantially all of its assets in a portfolio of investment-grade quality municipal securities, this change provides more flexibility regarding the types of securities available for investment.

Following this change, we were active in working to enhance the Funds’ diversification and transition their portfolios to reflect their uninsured status, adding a variety of sectors across the credit spectrum, particularly mid-tier and lower rated bonds. During this period, we found value in health care, substantially increasing our exposure to this sector in all of the Funds, as well as hospital bonds in NIO, NEA, NVG and NIF. We also added tobacco bonds, as well as transportation and toll way bonds to NIO, NEA, NVG and NIF. NQI and NPX also added bonds secured by revenues from sales and use taxes as well as airport, public power, transportation and tollway bonds, primarily in the A and BBB credit sectors. Over the past few years, when there were fewer purchase opportunities due to the insured mandate, the Funds’ durations had drifted lower as bonds matured or were called from their portfolios, and we were unable to replace them with insured bonds with longer maturities. We continued to emphasize extending the Funds’

durations through the purchase of bonds with longer maturities. This enabled us to take advantage of more attractive yields at the longer end of the municipal yield curve and helped to provide additional protection for the Funds' duration and yield curve positioning. NQI and NPX's duration was longer than the benchmark by the end of the period. In NIO, NVG, NEA and NIF, our opportunities in these areas were somewhat constrained by the structure of bonds typically issued as part of refinancing deals, which tend to be characterized by higher quality and shorter maturities.

We also took advantage of short-term opportunities created by the supply/demand dynamics in the municipal market. While demand for tax-exempt paper remained consistently strong throughout the period, supply fluctuated widely. We found that periods of substantial supply provided good short-term buying opportunities not only because of the increased number of issues available, but also because some investors became more hesitant in their buying as supply grew, as spreads narrowed. At times when supply was more plentiful, we were proactive in focusing on anticipating cash flows from bond calls and maturing bonds and closely monitored opportunities for reinvestment.

Cash for new purchases during this period was generated primarily by the proceeds from an increased number of bond calls resulting from the growth in refinancings. During this period, we worked to redeploy these proceeds as well as those from maturing bonds to keep the Funds as fully invested as possible. We also engaged in some tactical selling, that is, taking advantage of attractive bids for certain issues resulting from strong demand to sell a specific issue and reinvest the proceeds into bonds that we thought offered more potential. Overall, however, selling was relatively limited because the bonds in our portfolios generally offered higher yields than those available in the current marketplace.

As of April 30, 2013, all of these Funds continued to use inverse floating rate securities. We employ inverse floaters for a variety of reasons, including duration management, income enhancement and total return enhancement.

How did the Funds perform during the six-month reporting period ended April 30, 2013?

The tables in each Fund's Performance Overview and Holding Summaries section of this report provide total returns for the Funds for the six-month, one-year, five-year and ten-year periods ended April 30, 2013. Each Fund's total returns are compared with the performance of a corresponding market index and Lipper classification average.

For the six-months ended April 30, 2013, the total returns on common share net asset value (NAV) for NQI, NIO, NIF, NPX and NVG exceeded the returns for the S&P Municipal Bond Index, while NEA performed in line with the index. For this same period, the Funds lagged the average return for the Lipper General & Insured Leveraged Municipal Debt Funds Classification Average.

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

In an environment of very slightly rising long-term rates, essentially unchanged shorter rates and a steepening yield curve, results for municipal maturity categories remained positive across the yield curve, with longer maturities generally outperforming those with shorter maturities during this period. Overall, credits at the longest end of the municipal yield curve still posted the strongest returns, while bonds at the shortest end produced the weakest results. For this period, duration and yield curve positioning was a major factor in the performance of these Funds, with the net impact varying according to each Fund's individual weightings along the curve. As previously mentioned, the Funds' durations had shortened over the last several years as bonds matured or were called from their portfolios, and the lack of insured issuance hampered replacing them with bonds with longer maturities. With the investment policy change in January 2012, we worked to give these Funds better access to the longer segment of the yield curve. Overall for the period, NIF and NQI were the most advantageously positioned in terms of duration and yield curve. All of the Funds benefited from their holdings of long duration bonds, many of which had zero percent coupons, which generally outperformed the market during this period. This was especially true in NQI and NPX, which were overweight in zero coupon bonds. NEA, which reached its 10-year anniversary in November 2012, had the increased exposure to bonds with short call dates typically associated with that milestone, and its shorter effective duration constrained its participation in the market rally during this period.

Credit exposure was another important factor in the Funds' performance during these six months, as lower quality bonds generally outperformed higher quality bonds. This outperformance was due in part to the greater demand for lower rated bonds as investors looked for investment vehicles offering higher yields. As investors became more comfortable taking on additional investment risk, credit spreads, or the difference in yield spreads between U.S. Treasury securities and comparable investments such as

municipal bonds, narrowed through a variety of rating categories. As a result of this spread compression, these Funds benefited from their holdings of lower rated credits, especially NQI and NIO, which had the lowest allocation to AAA bonds as of April 30, 2013. NEA, on the other hand, had the heaviest weighting of bonds rated AAA, which detracted from its performance.

During this period, revenue bonds as a whole outperformed the general municipal market. Holdings that generally made positive contributions to the Funds' returns included health care (together with hospitals), transportation (including airport and toll roads). All of these Funds had strong weightings in health care, while their transportation holdings, especially toll roads, also added to performance. Tobacco credits backed by the 1998 master tobacco settlement agreement also performed extremely well, helped in part by their longer effective durations. These bonds also benefited from market developments, including increased demand for higher yielding investments by investors who had become less risk averse. In addition, based on recent data showing that cigarette sales had fallen less steeply than anticipated, the 46 states participating in the agreement stand to receive increased payments from the tobacco companies. Benefiting from the recent change in investment policy, NIO, NIF, NVG and NEA now have allocations of lower rated tobacco bonds, while NQI and NPX do not hold any tobacco credits.

In contrast, pre-refunded bonds, which are often backed by U.S. Treasury securities, were the poorest performing market segment during this period. The underperformance of these bonds can be attributed primarily to their shorter effective maturities and higher credit quality. As of April 30, 2013, NEA and NPX held the heaviest weighting of pre-refunded bonds, which significantly detracted from its performance during this period, while NVG had the smallest exposure to these bonds. General obligation (GO) bonds and housing and utilities (e.g., resource recovery, public power) credits also lagged the performance of the general municipal market for this period.

Shareholders also should be aware of an issue involving some of the Funds' holdings. In December 2012, Moody's down-graded Puerto Rico GO bonds to Baa3 from Baa1 based on Puerto Rico's ongoing economic problems, unfunded pension liabilities, elevated debt levels and structural budget gaps. Prior to this reporting period, bonds issued by the Puerto Rico Sales Tax Financing Corporation (COFINA) also were downgraded by Moody's to Aa3 from Aa2 in July 2012. The downgrade of the COFINA bonds was due mainly to the performance of Puerto Rico's economy and its impact on the projected growth of sales tax revenues, and not to any sector or structural issues. In

addition, the COFINA bonds were able to maintain a higher rating than the GOs because, unlike the revenue streams supporting some Puerto Rican issues, the sales taxes supporting the COFINA bonds cannot be diverted and used to support the commonwealth's GO bonds. Shareholders of these Funds should note that all of these Funds have exposure to Puerto Rico bonds, the majority of which are the dedicated sales tax bonds issued by COFINA.

For the reporting period ended April 30, 2013, Puerto Rico paper generally underperformed the market as whole. Because most of our holdings were the COFINA bonds, the overall impact on performance was minimal, differing from Fund to Fund in line with the type and amount of its holdings. As we continue to emphasize Puerto Rico's stronger credits, we view the COFINA bonds as long-term holdings and note that the commonwealth recently introduced various sales tax enforcement initiatives aimed at improving future collections.

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Fund Leverage

IMPACT OF THE FUNDS' LEVERAGE STRATEGIES ON PERFORMANCE

One important factor impacting the returns of all these Funds relative to the comparative indexes was the Funds' use of leverage. The Funds use leverage because their managers believe that, over time, leveraging provides opportunities for additional income and total return for common shareholders. However, use of leverage also can expose common shareholders to additional volatility. For example, as the prices of securities held by a Fund decline, the negative impact of these valuation changes on common share net asset value and common shareholder total return is magnified by the use of leverage. Conversely, leverage may enhance common share returns during periods when the prices of securities held by a Fund generally are rising. Leverage made a positive contribution to the performance of these Funds over this reporting period. As of April 30, 2013, the Funds' percentages of effective and regulatory leverage are shown in the accompanying table.

Fund	Effective Leverage*	Regulatory Leverage*
NQI	36.71%	28.76%
NIO	36.62%	30.42%
NIF	36.45%	29.40%
NPX	34.72%	28.17%
NVG	35.56%	29.30%
NEA	38.47%	30.57%

* Effective Leverage is a Fund's effective economic leverage, and includes both regulatory leverage and the leverage effects of certain derivative and other investments in a Fund's portfolio that increase the Fund's investment exposure. Currently, the leverage effects of Tender Option Bond (TOB) inverse floater holdings are included in effective leverage values, in addition to any regulatory leverage. Regulatory leverage consists of preferred shares issued or borrowings of a Fund. Both of these are part of a Fund's capital structure. Regulatory leverage is sometimes referred to as "40 Act Leverage" and is subject to asset coverage limits set forth in the Investment Company Act of 1940.

THE FUNDS' REGULATORY LEVERAGE

As of April 30, 2013, the Funds have issued and outstanding MuniFund Term Preferred (MTP) Shares, Variable Rate MuniFund Term Preferred (VMTP) Shares and Variable Rate Demand Preferred (VRDP) Shares as shown in the accompanying tables.

MTP Shares

Fund	Series	MTP Shares Issued at Liquidation Value	Annual Interest Rate	NYSE Ticker
NVG	2014	\$108,000,000	2.95%	NVG PrC
NEA	2015	\$83,000,000	2.85%	NEA PrC

VMTP Shares

Fund	Series	VMTP Shares Issued at Liquidation Value
NQI	2015 \$	240,400,000
NVG	2014 \$	92,500,000
NEA	2014 \$	67,600,000

During the current reporting period, NQI successfully exchanged of all its outstanding 2,404 Series 2014 VMTP Shares for 2,404 Series 2015 VMTP Shares. This transaction was completed in a privately negotiated offering.

The Fund completed the exchange offer in which it refinanced its existing VMTP Shares with new VMTP Shares at a reduced cost and with a term redemption date of December 1, 2015. Dividends on the VMTP Shares are set weekly at a fixed spread to the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association Municipal Swap Index (SIFMA).

VRDP Shares

Fund	VRDP Shares Issued at Liquidation Value
NIO	\$ 667,200,000
NIF	\$ 130,900,000
NPX	\$ 219,000,000

Refer to Notes to Financial Statements, Footnote 1 – General Information and Significant Accounting Policies for further details on MTP Shares, VMTP Shares and VRDP Shares.

Common Share Information

COMMON SHARE DIVIDEND INFORMATION