

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
E	If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II	Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information
1a	Name of plan FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/2000
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE GROUP, LLC 19520 WEST CATAWBA AVENUE SUITE 200 CORNELIUS, NC 28031
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1346906
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 704-895-5606
2d	Business code (see instructions) 524290

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/04/2024	BRIAN K. WILLIAMS
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name c Plan Name	4b EIN 4d PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	5 183
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d). a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6a(1) 150 6a(2) 184 6b 0 6c 36 6d 220 6e 0 6f 220 6g(1) 154 6g(2) 172 6h 15
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item).....	7

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:
 2F 2G 2J 2K 2T 3B 3D

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 0
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☐ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE GROUP, LLC	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1346906

Part I

Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1

Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

- a

Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).....

Yes

☒

No
- b

If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

(b)

Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, \$5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

ALPHASTAR CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC

38-3838543

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27 28 51	NONE	73121	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

AMERITAS LIFE INSURANCE CORP

47-0098400

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
12 13 15 17 37 38 40 49 50 64 65 99	NONE	13712	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

MATRIX TRUST COMPANY

75-3182674

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
19 37 50 62	NONE	6964	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☒ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received \$1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
MATRIX TRUST COMPANY	19 99	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
MSCS FINANCIAL SERVICES DIVISION OF 33-1151291	MCS PAYS ADMIN.FEES TO MTC WHICH MTC THEN PAYS OUT ACCORDING TO ADMIN. FEE COLLECTION ADDENDUM (FCA) OR OTHER DISCLOSURES. MSCS KEEPS UP TO 10% OF MUTUAL FUND FEES COLLECTED OR A FLAT FEE; THE ACTUAL AMOUNT IS IN THE FCA OR OTHER DISCLOSURES.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	
(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	(b) Service Codes (see instructions)	(c) Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
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(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide
(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	(b) Nature of Service Code(s)	(c) Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)
(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	b EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE GROUP, LLC		
		D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1346906

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		
1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.			
	Assets	(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	30328	41022
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)	664129	220665
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	160109	117857
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)	12975720	16010144
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	13830286	16389688
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j	215	0
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	215	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	13830071	16389688

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	417696	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	1144876	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	165398	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		1727970
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	6774	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		6774
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)	353326	
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		353326
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts.....	2b(8)		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities.....	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		1719600
c Other income	2c		406
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		3808076

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	1154662	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits.....	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3)	2e(4)		1154662
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)	10866	
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	2846	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	73121	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)	6964	
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		93797
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		1248459

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		2559617
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unmodified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) ☒ DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 (2) ☐ DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) (3) ☐ neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: **GREERWALKER LLP**

(2) EIN: **56-1434747**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

	Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)		☒	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		500000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan	B Three-digit plan number (PN)	
FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN	001	
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	D Employer Identification Number (EIN)	
FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE GROUP, LLC	56-1346906	

Part I	Distributions		
All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.			
1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	0
2	Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):		
	EIN(s): 75-3182674		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)			
4	Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.				
5	If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____			
If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.				
6	a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.				
7	Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8	If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments				
9	If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No

Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.		
10	Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?	☐ Yes	☐ No
11	a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
	b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.)	☐ Yes	☐ No
12	Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for: a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment) b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment) c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	14a 14b 14c	
15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to: a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15a 15b	 0.00
16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year: a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16a 16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b): a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____% b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
20 PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements. If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20. a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box: ☐ Yes. ☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date. ☐ No. Other. Provide explanation: _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No 21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2). ☐ Design-based safe harbor method ☐ "Prior year" ADP test ☒ "Current year" ADP test ☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>06 / 30 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q702939A</u> .	

****Printing Instructions****

In order to ensure that the signatures on the documents print, please make sure your settings in Adobe are set to print “document and markups” or similar.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION
RETIREMENT PLAN

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule
for the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022
and Independent Auditors' Report



GreerWalker

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GreerWalker

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Plan Administrator and Participants of the Financial Independence Corporation Retirement Plan:

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audits

We have performed audits of the financial statements of the Financial Independence Corporation Retirement Plan (the "Plan"), an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) ("ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit"). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of the Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's ("DOL") Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan ("investment information") by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA ("qualified institution").

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the years then ended, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements section:

- The amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ("GAAP").
- The information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in the United States of America ("GAAS"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the Plan, and determining that the Plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the Plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audits of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audits section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if, there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of GAAP.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with GAAP.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters - Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2023 (the "ERISA-required supplemental schedule") is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the ERISA-required supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. For information included in the ERISA-required supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the ERISA-required supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the ERISA-required supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion:

- The form and content of the ERISA-required supplemental schedule, other than the information in the ERISA-required supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- The information in the ERISA-required supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).



Certified Public Accountants
October 1, 2024
Greenville, SC

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ASSETS:		
Non-interest bearing cash	\$ 41,022	\$ 30,328
Investments, at fair value	16,230,809	13,639,849
Notes receivable from participants	<u>117,857</u>	<u>160,109</u>
Total assets	16,389,688	13,830,286
LIABILITIES:		
Other liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>215</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	<u>\$ 16,389,688</u>	<u>\$ 13,830,071</u>

See notes to financial statements.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Investment income (loss):		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 1,720,006	\$ (2,455,991)
Interest and dividend income	353,326	279,119
Total investment income (loss), net	<u>2,073,332</u>	<u>(2,176,872)</u>
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	<u>6,774</u>	<u>6,632</u>
Contributions:		
Participants	1,144,876	1,010,116
Employer	417,696	367,868
Rollovers	165,398	26,750
Total contributions	<u>1,727,970</u>	<u>1,404,734</u>
Total additions, net	<u>3,808,076</u>	<u>(765,506)</u>
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Benefits paid to participants	1,154,662	475,684
Administrative expenses	93,797	90,907
Total deductions	<u>1,248,459</u>	<u>566,591</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	2,559,617	(1,332,097)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>13,830,071</u>	<u>15,162,168</u>
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 16,389,688</u>	<u>\$ 13,830,071</u>

See notes to financial statements.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

1. PLAN DESCRIPTION

The following description of the Financial Independence Corporation Retirement Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General - The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of Financial Independence Group (the "Employer") who are not classified as leased employees, employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement or nonresident aliens. Prior to November 1, 2023, the Plan covered employees who have completed three months of service and are age twenty-one or older. Effective November 1, 2023, the Plan was amended changing the eligibility requirements from three months of service and attainment of age twenty-one to one month of service and attainment of age twenty-one. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). Management is responsible for oversight of the Plan, determines the appropriateness of the Plan's investment offerings and monitors investment performance.

Contributions - Each year, participants may contribute between 1% and 100% of their annual eligible compensation, as defined in the plan document. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans (rollover). Participants direct the investment of their contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. At its sole discretion, the Employer may make matching contributions to the Plan. For the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Employer contributed 50% of the first 6% of eligible compensation that a participant contributed to the Plan. Contributions are subject to certain Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") limitations.

Participant Accounts - Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and the Employer's matching contributions, as well as allocation of the Plan's earnings. Participant accounts are charged with an allocation of administrative expenses that are paid by the Plan. Allocations are based on participant earnings, account balances, or specific participant transactions, as defined in the plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting - Participants are immediately vested in their contributions plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Employer's matching contributions plus actual earnings thereon is based on years of service. If a participant terminates employment prior to normal retirement age for any reason other than death or permanent disability, the participant's interest in the Employer's discretionary profit-sharing contributions vests 20% after two years of service, increasing 20% each succeeding year until fully vested after six years of service.

Notes Receivable from Participants - Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account. The loan interest rate is set at 1% above the prime rate, as defined in the plan document. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Payment of Benefits - Upon termination of service due to death, disability, retirement or some other reason, a participant may elect to receive a lump sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. The Plan permits in-service and hardship withdrawals under certain conditions.

Forfeited Accounts - Benefit payments to terminated employees partially vested in the Plan include their vested portion of the Employer's matching contributions. The nonvested portion of terminated participants' account balances is used to reduce the Employer's future contributions or to pay the Plan's administrative expenses. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there was approximately \$40,000 and \$29,000, respectively, of forfeited nonvested accounts available for future use. During the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, approximately \$11,000 and \$23,000, respectively, of forfeited nonvested accounts were used to reduce the Employer's contributions or to pay the Plan's administrative expenses.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting - The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

Use of Accounting Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Any adjustments applied to estimated amounts are recognized in the year in which such adjustments are determined.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition - Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants as of the measurement date. Management determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by its investment advisor and Matrix Trust Company, the Custodian of the Plan. See Note 4 for disclosure of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Contributions - Contributions from participants are recorded as they are withheld from the participant's wages. Contributions from the Employer are recorded in the period in which the related participant contributions are due.

Notes Receivable from Participants - Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and management deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Payment of Benefits - Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses - Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Employer. Expenses that are paid by the Employer are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments.

Subsequent Events - Management has evaluated subsequent events through October 1, 2024, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY CUSTODIAN

The following is a summary of the Plan's asset information as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the years then ended, included in the financial statements and the ERISA-required supplemental schedule, that was prepared by, or derived from, information prepared by the Custodian and furnished to management. Management has obtained certifications from the Custodian that such information is complete and accurate as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Assets:		
Exchange traded funds	\$ 15,925,010	\$ 12,743,634
Money market account	\$ 220,665	\$ 664,129
Mutual funds	\$ 85,134	\$ 232,086
Non-interest bearing cash	\$ 41,022	\$ 30,328
Investment income (loss):		
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments	\$ 1,720,006	\$ (2,455,991)
Interest and dividend income	\$ 353,326	\$ 279,119

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

GAAP provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under GAAP are described as follows:

Level 1	Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.
Level 2	Inputs to the valuation methodology include: • Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; • Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets; • Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability; • Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. If the asset or liability has a specified (contractual) term, the Level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.
Level 3	Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for investments measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

Exchange traded funds ("ETFs"): Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. ETFs held by the Plan are open-end ETFs that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value ("NAV") and to transact at that price. The ETFs held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily NAV and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Money market account: Valued as of the ending cash balance plus any accrued interest held by the Plan as of year-end.

The preceding methods described may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although management believes the Plan's valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement as of the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2023:

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Exchange traded funds	\$ 15,925,010	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,925,010
Money market account	220,665	-	-	220,665
Mutual funds	<u>85,134</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>85,134</u>
Investments, at fair value	<u>\$ 16,230,809</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,230,809</u>

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2022:

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Exchange traded funds	\$ 12,743,634	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,743,634
Money market account	664,129	-	-	664,129
Mutual funds	<u>232,086</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>232,086</u>
Investments, at fair value	<u>\$ 13,639,849</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 13,639,849</u>

5. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND PARTY IN INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Certain investments of the Plan were managed by Matrix Trust Company. Matrix Trust Company is the custodian for the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as exempt party in interest transactions.

As described in Note 1, the Plan permits participants to borrow from their vested account balances. These transactions qualify as exempt party in interest transactions.

6. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Employer has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of the Plan's termination, participants would become 100% vested in their employer contributions.

7. TAX STATUS

On June 30, 2020, the IRS stated that the prototype plan adopted by the Plan, as then designed, qualifies under Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") Section 401(a). The Plan has not received a determination letter specific to the Plan itself; however, management and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan was designed and was being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

GAAP requires management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the taxing authorities. Management has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits of any tax periods in progress.

8. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

9. RECONCILIATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO FORM 5500

The following is a reconciliation of the change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2022:

Change in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ (1,332,097)
Add: Employer contributions receivable, beginning of year	<u>12,955</u>
Change in net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	<u>\$ (1,319,142)</u>

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

EIN: 56-1346906 - PN: 001

(a) Party in interest	(b) Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity dates, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(e) Current value
	SPDR Portfolio Large Cap ETF	Exchange traded fund	\$ 2,771,353
	SPDR S&P World Ex-US ETF	Exchange traded fund	1,658,866
	SPDR S&P 500 Growth ETF	Exchange traded fund	1,522,335
	SPDR S&P 500 Value ETF	Exchange traded fund	1,103,305
	SPDR Russell Small Cap Completeness ETF	Exchange traded fund	852,245
	Schwab Short-Term U.S. Treasury ETF	Exchange traded fund	743,650
	Schwab U.S Aggregate Bond	Exchange traded fund	654,740
	SPDR Portfolio Small Cap ETF	Exchange traded fund	613,051
	iShares Gold Trust ETF	Exchange traded fund	526,836
	SPDR S&P Emerging Markets ETF	Exchange traded fund	520,623
	Energy Select Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	411,984
	Health Care Select Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	369,334
	Schwab Intermediate-Term US	Exchange traded fund	337,833
	iShares MSCI EAFE Small-Cap ETF	Exchange traded fund	300,769
	SPDR Barclays Capital Convertible Securities ETF	Exchange traded fund	277,582
	Communication Services Selected Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	265,558
	Schwab U.S. TIPS ETF	Exchange traded fund	245,657
*	Matrix Trust Retirement Cash Account	Money market account	220,665
	SPDR S&P 600 Small Cap Value ETF	Exchange traded fund	215,335
	Technology Select Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	200,975
	iShares Preferred and Income Securities ETF	Exchange traded fund	199,508
	SPDR Global Dow ETF	Exchange traded fund	152,648
	SPDR S&P 600 Small Cap Growth ETF	Exchange traded fund	148,648
	Vanguard Long-Term Treasury Index ETF	Exchange traded fund	136,492
	SPDR Blackstone Senior Loan ETF	Exchange traded fund	133,059
	Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	132,710
	SPDR S&P 400 Mid Cap Value ETF	Exchange traded fund	129,283
	SPDR Dow Jones Global Real Estate ETF	Exchange traded fund	122,601
	iShares Intl Aggregate bond	Exchange traded fund	122,050
	iShares TR JPMorgan ETF	Exchange traded fund	120,285

* Party in interest to the Plan

See independent auditors' report.

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

EIN: 56-1346906 - PN: 001

(a)	(b)	(c)	(e)
Party in interest	Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor or similar party	Description of investment including maturity dates, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	Current value
	iShares 0-5 Year High Yield Corp Bond ETF	Exchange traded fund	109,940
	Vanguard Total International Bond Index Fund ETF	Exchange traded fund	104,554
	First Trust North American Energy Infra ETF	Exchange traded fund	101,784
	SPDR Barclays LT Treasury ETF	Exchange traded fund	98,638
	SPDR S&P 400 Mid Cap Growth E ETF	Exchange traded fund	95,593
	iShares Silver Trust ETF	Exchange traded fund	95,238
	iShares MSCI ACWI Index Fund ETF	Exchange traded fund	64,131
	Invesco DB Commodity Index Tracking ETF	Exchange traded fund	53,785
	Vanguard Intermediate-Term Corporate Bond Index Fund ETF	Exchange traded fund	49,793
	Russell Investments LifePoints Balanced Strategy-Class R1	Mutual fund	41,508
	Real Estate Select Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	35,326
	Russell Investments LifePoints Growth Strategy Fund - Class R1	Mutual fund	28,747
	SPDR FTSE International Government Inflation-Protected Bond ETF	Exchange traded fund	28,540
	Utilities Select Sector Fund	Exchange traded fund	24,597
	iShares MSCI EAFE Growth ETF	Exchange traded fund	16,521
	SPDR S&P Health Care Equipment ETF	Exchange traded fund	12,772
	Russell Investments LifePoints Equity Growth Strategy Fund - Class R1	Mutual fund	11,711
	Industrial Select Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	9,927
	iShares Core US REIT ETF	Exchange traded fund	7,708
	iShares MSCI EAFE Value ETF	Exchange traded fund	7,218
	Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund	Exchange traded fund	6,733
	iShares National Muni Bond E	Exchange traded fund	5,890
	Select Sector Consumer Discretionary Tr	Exchange traded fund	4,828
	iShares iBoxx \$ Invest Grade Corp Bond	Exchange traded fund	2,000
	Russell Investments LifePoints Moderate Strategy Fund - Class R1	Mutual fund	1,588
	Russell Investments LifePoints Conservative Strategy- Class R1	Mutual fund	1,580
	iShares Core MSCI Europe ETF	Exchange traded fund	99
	iShares Core MSCI Pacific ETF	Exchange traded fund	80
*	Participant Loans	Interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 9.50%	117,857
	Total		<u>\$ 16,348,666</u>

* Party in interest to the Plan

See independent auditors' report.

Form 5500Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue ServiceDepartment of Labor
Employee Benefits Security
Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089**2023****This Form is Open to Public Inspection****Part I Annual Report Identification Information**

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

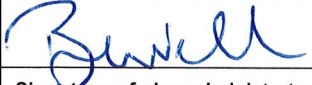
- A** This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____
- B** This return/report is: ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report
☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
- C** If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
- D** Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program
☐ special extension (enter description)
- E** If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ ☐

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan Financial Independence Corporation Retirement Plan	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
	1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2000
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) Financial Independence Group, LLC 19520 West Catawba Avenue Suite 200 Cornelius NC 28031	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 56-1346906 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 704-895-5606 2d Business code (see instructions) 524290

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE		10/4/24	BRIAN K. WILLIAMS
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Form 5500 (2023)
v. 2300728

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN

SCHEDULE H, LINE 4i - SCHEDULE OF ASSETS (HELD AT END OF YEAR)

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

EIN: 56-1346906 - PN: 001

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FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE CORPORATION RETIREMENT PLAN

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