

Stellus Capital Investment Corp
Form 497
March 14, 2019

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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. A registration statement relating to these securities has been filed with and declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell and are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any state where such offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED MARCH 14, 2019

**PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT
(to Prospectus dated June 29, 2018)**

2,750,000 Shares

Stellus Capital Investment Corporation

Common Stock

We are offering for sale 2,750,000 shares of our common stock. The underwriters have agreed to purchase shares of our common stock from us at a price of \$ per share which will result in approximately \$ million of net proceeds, after deducting estimated offering expenses, to us, or \$ million assuming full exercise of the underwriters option to purchase additional shares described below. We expect that our expenses for this offering will be approximately \$135,000.

The underwriters may also exercise their option to purchase up to an additional 412,500 shares of common stock from us, at the price per share set forth above, for 30 days after the date of this prospectus supplement.

We are an externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a business development company, or BDC, under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, or the 1940 Act. Our investment objective is to maximize the total return to our stockholders in the form of current income and capital appreciation through debt and related equity investments in middle-market companies. The companies in which we invest are typically highly leveraged, and, in most cases, our investments in such companies will not be rated by national rating agencies. If such investments were rated, we believe that they would likely receive a rating below investment grade (i.e., below BBB or Baa), which are often referred to as junk.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, under the trading symbol SCM. The last sale price, as reported on NYSE on March 13, 2019, was \$14.68 per share. The net asset value per share of our common stock at December 31, 2018 (the last date prior to the date of this prospectus supplement on which we determined net asset value) was \$14.09.

Shares of closed-end investment companies, including BDCs, frequently trade at a discount to their net asset value. If our shares trade at a discount to our net asset value, it will likely increase the risk of loss for purchasers in this offering.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, contain important information about us that a prospective investor should know before investing in our common stock. Please read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus before you invest and keep it for future reference. We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information about us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC.

The SEC also maintains a website at <http://www.sec.gov> that contains such information. This information is also available free of charge by contacting us at 4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 2200, Houston, Texas 77027, Attention:

Investor Relations, or by calling us collect at (713) 292-5400 or on our website at www.stelluscapital.com.

Information contained on our website is not incorporated by reference into this prospectus, and you should not consider that information to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Investing in our common stock involves a high degree of risk. Before buying any shares, you should read the discussion of the material risks of investing in our common stock in Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus.

Neither the SEC nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities, or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Per Share	Total
Public offering price	
Sales load to be paid by us (1)	
Proceeds to us before expenses (2)	

(1) Stellus Capital Management, LLC has agreed to bear \$, or \$ per share, of the sales load in connection with the shares of our common stock sold in this offering, which is not reflected in the above table. If the underwriters exercise their option to purchase additional shares in full, Stellus Capital Management, LLC will bear \$, or \$ per share.

(2) Before deducting estimated offering expenses payable by us of approximately \$135,000.

The underwriters have the option to purchase up to an additional 412,500 shares of common stock at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement. If the option is exercised in full, the total public offering price will be \$, and the total underwriting discount (%) will be \$. The proceeds to us would be \$, before deducting estimated expenses payable by us of \$135,000.

Joint Bookrunning Managers

RAYMOND JAMES

Keefe, Bruyette & Woods
A Stifel Company

Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC

The date of this prospectus supplement is March , 2019

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YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS. WE HAVE NOT, AND THE UNDERWRITERS HAVE NOT, AUTHORIZED ANY OTHER PERSON TO PROVIDE YOU WITH DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. IF ANYONE PROVIDES YOU WITH DIFFERENT OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, YOU SHOULD NOT RELY ON IT. WE ARE NOT, AND THE UNDERWRITERS ARE NOT, MAKING AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED. YOU SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE INFORMATION APPEARING IN THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS IS ACCURATE ONLY AS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DATES, REGARDLESS OF THE TIME OF DELIVERY OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS OR ANY SALES OF THE SECURITIES. OUR BUSINESS, FINANCIAL CONDITION, RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND PROSPECTS MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THOSE DATES.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of this offering and certain matters relating to us. The second part, the accompanying prospectus, gives more general information about the securities that we may offer from time to time, some of which may not apply to the common stock offered by this prospectus supplement. For information about our common stock, see *Description of Our Common Stock* in the accompanying prospectus.

If information varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely only on such information in this prospectus supplement. The information contained in this prospectus supplement supersedes any inconsistent information included in the accompanying prospectus. In various places in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, we refer you to other sections of such documents for additional information by indicating the caption heading of such other sections. The page on which each principal caption included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus can be found is listed in the table of contents above. All such cross references in this prospectus supplement are to captions contained in this prospectus supplement and not in the accompanying prospectus, unless otherwise stated.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

This summary highlights some of the information in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. It is not complete and may not contain all of the information that you may want to consider. You should read the more detailed information set forth under Risk Factors and the other information included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully. Except as otherwise indicated, the terms we, us, our, and the Company refer to Stellus Capital Investment Corporation; and Stellus Capital Management refers to our investment adviser and administrator, Stellus Capital Management, LLC.

Stellus Capital Investment Corporation

We are an externally managed, closed-end, non-diversified management investment company that has elected to be regulated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. We originate and invest primarily in private middle-market companies (typically those with \$5.0 million to \$50.0 million of EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization)) through first lien (including unitranche), second lien and unsecured debt financing, with corresponding equity co-investments. Unitranche debt is typically structured as first lien loans with certain risk characteristics of unsecured debt. Unsecured debt includes senior unsecured and subordinated loans.

Our investment activities are managed by our investment adviser, Stellus Capital Management, an investment advisory firm led by Robert T. Ladd and its other senior investment professionals. We source investments primarily through the extensive network of relationships that the senior investment professionals of Stellus Capital Management have developed with financial sponsor firms, financial institutions, middle-market companies, management teams and other professional intermediaries. The companies in which we invest are typically highly leveraged, and, in most cases, our investments in such companies will not be rated by national rating agencies. If such investments were rated, we believe that they would likely receive a rating that is often referred to as junk.

Our investment objective is to maximize the total return to our stockholders in the form of current income and capital appreciation. We seek to achieve our investment objective by:

- accessing the extensive origination channels that have been developed and established by the Stellus Capital Management senior investment professionals that include long-standing relationships with private equity firms, commercial banks, investment banks and other financial services firms;
- investing in what we believe to be companies with strong business fundamentals, generally within our core middle-market company focus;
- focusing on a variety of industry sectors, including business services, energy, general industrial, government services, healthcare, software and specialty finance;
- focusing primarily on directly originated transactions;
- applying the disciplined underwriting standards that the Stellus Capital Management senior investment professionals have developed over their extensive investing careers; and
- capitalizing upon the experience and resources of the Stellus Capital Management investment team to monitor our investments.

In addition, on October 23, 2013, we received an exemptive order (the Prior Order) from the SEC to co-invest with private funds managed by Stellus Capital Management where doing so is consistent with our investment strategy as well as applicable law (including the terms and conditions of the exemptive order issued by the SEC). On December 18, 2018, we received a new exemptive order (the Order) that supersedes the Prior Order and permits us greater flexibility to enter into co-investment transactions. The Order expands on the Prior Order and allows us to co-invest

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managed by Stellus Capital Management or an adviser that is controlled, controlling, or under common control with Stellus Capital Management, subject to the conditions included therein. Pursuant to the Order, a required majority (as defined in Section 57(o) of the 1940 Act) of our independent directors must make certain conclusions in connection with a co-investment transaction, including that (1) the terms of the proposed transaction, including the consideration to be paid, are reasonable and fair to us and our stockholders and do not involve overreaching of us or our stockholders on the part of any person concerned and (2) the transaction is consistent with the interests of our stockholders and is consistent with our investment objectives and strategies. We co-invest, subject to the conditions included in the Order, with private credit funds managed by Stellus Capital Management that have an investment strategy that is similar to or identical to our investment strategy, and we may co-invest with other BDCs and registered investment companies managed by Stellus Capital Management or an adviser that is controlled, controlling, or under common control with Stellus Capital Management in the future. We believe that such co-investments may afford us additional investment opportunities and an ability to achieve greater diversification.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. Prior to June 28, 2018, we were only allowed to employ leverage to the extent that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, was equal to at least 200% after giving effect to such leverage. On March 23, 2018, the Small Business Credit Availability Act (the SBCAA) was signed into law, which included various changes to regulations under the federal securities laws that impact BDCs. The SBCAA included changes to the 1940 Act to allow BDCs to decrease their asset coverage requirement to 150% from 200% under certain circumstances. On April 4, 2018, our board of directors, or the Board, including a required majority (as such term is defined in Section 57(o) of the 1940 Act) of the Board, approved the application of the modified asset coverage requirements set forth in Section 61(a)(2) of the 1940 Act. The Board also approved the submission of a proposal to approve the application of the modified asset coverage requirements set forth in Section 61(a)(2) of the 1940 Act, which was approved by stockholders at our 2018 annual meeting of stockholders. As a result, the asset coverage ratio applicable to the Company was decreased from 200% to 150%, effective as of June 28, 2018. In other words, prior to the enactment of the SBCAA, a BDC could borrow \$1.00 for investment purposes for every \$1.00 of investor equity. Now, for those BDCs, like the Company, that satisfy the SBCAA's approval and disclosure requirements, the BDC can borrow \$2.00 for investment purposes for every \$1.00 of investor equity. As of December 31, 2018, our asset coverage ratio was 251%. The amount of leverage that we employ at any time depends on our assessment of the market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

We have elected and intend to qualify annually to be treated for federal income tax purposes as a regulated investment company, or RIC, under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code, or the Code. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level federal income taxes on any net ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders as dividends if we meet certain source-of-income, distribution and asset diversification requirements.

SBIC License

Our wholly owned subsidiary holds a license from the Small Business Administration, or SBA, to operate as a small business investment company, or SBIC. Current SBA regulations allow an SBIC to obtain leverage by issuing SBA-guaranteed debentures up to a maximum of \$175 million under current SBIC regulations, subject to required capitalization of the SBIC subsidiary, SBA approval, and other requirements. The principal amount of SBA-guaranteed debentures is not required to be paid prior to maturity but may be prepaid at any time without penalty. The interest rate of SBA-guaranteed debentures is fixed at the time of issuance at a market-driven spread over U.S. Treasury Notes with ten-year maturities. We believe that the SBA-guaranteed debentures are an attractive source of debt capital.

We have received exemptive relief from the SEC to permit us to exclude the debt of our SBIC subsidiary guaranteed by the SBA from the definition of senior securities in the 200% asset coverage ratio we are required to maintain under the 1940 Act. The exemptive relief provides us

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with increased flexibility under the asset coverage test by permitting us to borrow up to \$175.0 million more than we would otherwise be able to absent the receipt of this exemptive relief.

Portfolio Composition

Our investments generally range in size from \$5.0 million to \$30.0 million, and we may also selectively invest in larger positions. We generally expect that the size of our positions will increase in proportion to the size of our capital base. Pending such investments, we may reduce our outstanding indebtedness or invest in cash, cash equivalents, U.S. government securities and other high-quality debt investments with a maturity of one year or less. In the future, we may adjust opportunistically the percentage of our assets held in various types of loans, our principal loan sources and the industries to which we have greatest exposure, based on market conditions, the credit cycle, available financing and our desired risk/return profile.

The following table provides a summary of our portfolio investments as of December 31, 2018:

	As of December 31, 2018 (\$ in millions)
Number of investments	57
Fair value (a)	\$ 504.5
Cost	\$ 502.7
% of portfolio at fair value first lien debt (b)	57.9 %
% of portfolio at fair value second lien debt	29.7 %
% of portfolio at fair value unsecured debt	5.0 %
% of portfolio at fair value equity	7.4 %
Weighted-average annual yield (c)	10.9 %

As of December 31, 2018, \$422.3 million of our debt investments at fair value were at floating interest rates, which represented approximately 91% of our total portfolio of debt investments at fair value. As of December 31, 2018, (a) \$43.0 million of our debt investments at fair value were at fixed interest rates, which represented approximately 9% of our total portfolio of debt investments at fair value.

(b) Includes unitranche investments, which account for 20.6% of our investment portfolio at fair value.

The weighted average yield on all of our debt investments as of December 31, 2018, was approximately 10.9%, of which approximately 10.2% was current cash interest. The weighted average yield of our debt investments is not the same as a return on investment for our stockholders but, rather, relates to a portion of our investment portfolio and is calculated before the payment of all of our and our subsidiaries fees and expenses. The weighted average (c) yield was computed using the effective interest rates for all of our debt investments, which represents the interest rate on our debt investment restated as an interest rate payable annually in arrears and is computed including cash and payment in kind, or PIK interest, as well as accretion of original issue discount. There can be no assurance that the weighted average yield will remain at its current level.

Leverage

Credit Facility. We have entered into a senior secured revolving credit agreement, dated as of October 10, 2017, with ZB, N.A., dba Amegy Bank and various other lenders (the "Credit Facility"). The Credit Facility provides for borrowings up to a maximum of \$180.0 million on a committed basis with an accordion feature that allows us to increase the aggregate commitments up to \$195.0 million, subject to new or existing lenders agreeing to participate in the increase and other customary conditions. Borrowings under the Credit Facility bear interest, subject to our election, on a per annum basis equal to (i) LIBOR plus 2.50% with no LIBOR floor or (ii) 1.50% plus an alternate base rate based on the highest of the Prime Rate, Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5% or one month LIBOR plus 1.0%. We pay unused commitment fees of 0.50% per annum on the unused lender commitments. Interest is payable quarterly in arrears. Any amounts borrowed under the Credit Facility will mature, and all accrued and unpaid interest thereunder will be due and payable, on October 1, 2021. Our obligations to the lenders are secured by a first priority security interest in its portfolio of securities and cash not held at the SBIC subsidiary, but excluding short term investments. As of December 31, 2018, we had approximately \$99.6 million outstanding under the Credit Facility.

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2022 Notes. On August 21, 2017, we issued \$42.5 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.75% notes due 2022, or the 2022 Notes, and received net proceeds of approximately \$41.0 million. We issued an additional \$6.375 million in aggregate principal amount of the 2022 Notes on September 8, 2017 pursuant to a full exercise of the underwriters overallotment option. The 2022 Notes will mature on September 15, 2022, and may be redeemed in whole or in part at any time or from time to time at our option on or after September 15, 2019 at a redemption price equal to 100% of the outstanding principal, plus accrued and unpaid interest. The 2022 Notes bear interest at a rate of 5.75% per year payable quarterly on March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 of each year. The Notes are listed on the NYSE under the trading symbol SCA with a par value of \$25.00 per share.

SBA guaranteed debentures. Due to the SBIC subsidiary's status as a licensed SBIC, we have the ability to issue debentures guaranteed by the SBA at favorable interest rates. As of December 31, 2018, the SBIC subsidiary had \$150.0 million of SBA guaranteed debentures outstanding.

Stellus Capital Management

Stellus Capital Management manages our investment activities and is responsible for analyzing investment opportunities, conducting research and performing due diligence on potential investments, negotiating and structuring our investments, originating prospective investments and monitoring our investments and portfolio companies on an ongoing basis.

The senior investment professionals of Stellus Capital Management have an average of over 29 years of investing, corporate finance, restructuring, consulting and accounting experience and have worked together at several companies. The Stellus Capital Management senior investment professionals have a wide range of experience in middle-market investing, including originating, structuring and managing loans and debt securities through market cycles. The Stellus Capital Management senior investment professionals continue to provide investment sub-advisory services to the D. E. Shaw & Co., L.P. and its associated investment funds, or the D. E. Shaw group, with respect to an approximately \$17.0 million investment portfolio at fair value (as of December 31, 2018) in middle-market companies pursuant to sub-advisory arrangements.

In addition to serving as our investment adviser and the sub-advisor to the D. E. Shaw group as noted above, Stellus Capital Management currently manages a private credit funds, some of which have an investment strategy that is similar or identical to our investment strategy and energy private equity funds. We received the Order from the SEC, which permits us to co-invest with investment funds managed by Stellus Capital Management or an adviser that is controlled, controlling, or under common control with Stellus Capital Management, where doing so is consistent with our investment strategy as well as applicable law (including the terms and conditions of the exemptive order issued by the SEC). We believe that such co-investments may afford us additional investment opportunities and an ability to achieve greater diversification. We will not co-invest with the energy private equity funds, as the energy private equity funds focus on predominantly equity-related investments and we focus on predominantly credit-related investments.

In addition, we will not co-invest with the D. E. Shaw group funds,

Stellus Capital Management is headquartered in Houston, Texas, and also maintains offices in the Washington, D.C. area and Charlotte, North Carolina.

Market Opportunity

We originate and invest primarily in private middle-market companies through first lien (including unitranche), second lien and unsecured debt financing, often with a corresponding equity co-investment. We believe the

environment for investing in middle-market companies is attractive for several reasons, including:

Robust Demand for Debt Capital. We believe that private equity firms have significant committed but uncalled capital, a large portion of which is still available for investment in the United States. We expect the large amount of uninvested capital commitments will drive buyout

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activity over the next several years, which should, in turn, create lending opportunities for us. In addition to increased buyout activity, a high volume of senior secured and high yield debt was originated in the calendar years 2011 through 2013 and will come due in the near term and, accordingly, we believe that new financing opportunities will increase as many companies seek to refinance this indebtedness.

Attractive Environment to Lend To Middle-Market Companies. We believe the current strength of the U.S. economy provides an attractive environment to lend to middle-market companies. The U.S. services and manufacturing sector continues to show strong growth and profitability, allowing middle market companies to continue to service their debt and prudently borrow to support growth initiatives and mergers and acquisitions activity. This dynamism, coupled with ample capital from private equity firms to support middle market companies, is creating a large population of credit worthy companies looking for debt capital.

Attractive Deal Pricing and Structures. We believe that the pricing of middle-market debt investments is higher, and the terms of such investments are more conservative, compared to larger liquid, public debt financings, due to the more limited universe of lenders as well as the highly negotiated nature of these financings. These transactions tend to offer stronger covenant packages, higher interest rates, lower leverage levels and better call protection compared to larger financings. In addition, middle-market loans typically offer other investor protections such as default penalties, lien protection, change of control provisions and information rights for lenders.

Specialized Lending Requirements. Lending to middle-market companies requires in-depth diligence, credit expertise, restructuring experience and active portfolio management. We believe that several factors render many U.S. financial institutions ill-suited to lend to middle-market companies. For example, based on the experience of Stellus Capital Management's senior investment professionals, lending to middle-market companies in the United States (a) is generally more labor intensive than lending to larger companies due to the smaller size of each investment and the fragmented nature of the information available with respect to such companies, (b) requires specialized due diligence and underwriting capabilities, and (c) may also require more extensive ongoing monitoring by the lender. We believe that, through Stellus Capital Management, we have the experience and expertise to meet these specialized lending requirements.

Competitive Strengths

We believe that the following competitive strengths will allow us to achieve positive returns for our investors:

Experienced Investment Team. Through our investment adviser, Stellus Capital Management, we have access to the experience and expertise of the Stellus Capital Management senior investment professionals, including its senior investment professionals who have an average of over 29 years of investing, corporate finance, restructuring, consulting and accounting experience and have worked together at several companies. The Stellus Capital Management investment professionals have a wide range of experience in middle-market investing, including originating, structuring and managing debt and equity securities through market cycles. We believe the members of Stellus Capital Management's senior investment professionals are proven and experienced, with extensive capabilities in credit investing, having participated in these markets for the predominant portion of their careers. We believe that these characteristics enhance the quantity and quality of investment opportunities available to us.

Established, Rigorous Investment and Monitoring Process. The Stellus Capital Management senior investment professionals have developed an extensive review and credit analysis process. Each investment that is reviewed by Stellus Capital Management is brought through a structured, multi-stage approval process. In addition, Stellus Capital Management takes an active approach in monitoring all investments, including reviews of financial performance on at

least a quarterly basis and regular discussions with management. Stellus Capital Management s

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investment and monitoring process and the depth and experience of its investment professionals should allow it to conduct the type of due diligence and monitoring that enables it to identify and evaluate risks and opportunities.

Demonstrated Ability to Structure Investments Creatively. Stellus Capital Management has the expertise and ability to structure investments across all levels of a company's capital structure. Furthermore, we believe that current market conditions will allow us to structure attractively priced debt investments and may allow us to incorporate other return-enhancing mechanisms such as commitment fees, original issue discounts, early redemption premiums, PIK, interest and various forms of equity securities.

Resources of Stellus Capital Management Platform. We have access to the resources and capabilities of Stellus Capital Management, which has 17 investment professionals, including Robert T. Ladd, Dean D. Angelo, Joshua T. Davis and Todd A. Overbergen, who are supported by eight managing directors, two vice presidents and three analysts. These individuals have developed long-term relationships with middle-market companies, management teams, financial sponsors, lending institutions and deal intermediaries by providing flexible financing throughout the capital structure. We believe that these relationships provide us with a competitive advantage in identifying investment opportunities in our target market. We also expect to benefit from Stellus Capital Management's due diligence, credit analysis, origination and transaction execution experience and capabilities, including the support provided with respect to those functions by Mr. Huskinson, who serves as our chief financial officer and chief compliance officer, and his staff of ten finance and operations professionals.

Risk Factors

An investment in our securities is subject to risks. The following is a summary of the principal risks that you should carefully consider before investing in our securities. In addition, see "Risk Factors" beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus to read about factors you should consider before deciding to invest in our securities.

We are dependent upon key personnel of Stellus Capital Management for our future success. If Stellus Capital Management were to lose any of its key personnel, our ability to achieve our investment objective could be significantly harmed.

Our business model depends to a significant extent upon strong referral relationships. Any inability of Stellus Capital Management to maintain or develop these relationships, or the failure of these relationships to generate investment opportunities, could adversely affect our business.

Our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows will depend on our ability to manage our business effectively.

There are significant potential conflicts of interest that could negatively affect our investment returns. The incentive fee structure we have with Stellus Capital Management may create incentives that are not fully aligned with the interests of our stockholders.

We will be subject to corporate-level income tax and may default under the Credit Facility if we are unable to maintain our qualification as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code.

Regulations governing our operation as a BDC affect our ability to and the way in which we raise additional capital and, as a BDC, the necessity of raising additional capital may expose us to risks, including the typical risks associated with leverage.

Because we finance our investments with borrowed money, the potential for gain or loss on amounts invested in us is magnified and may increase the risk of investing in us.

Because we use debt to finance our investments, changes in interest rates will affect our cost of capital and net investment income.

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Adverse developments in the credit markets may impair our ability to borrow money. Most of our portfolio investments are recorded at fair value as determined in good faith by our board of directors and, as a result, there may be uncertainty as to the value of our portfolio investments. Our ability to enter into transactions with our affiliates will be restricted, which may limit the scope of investments available to us.

The involvement of our interested directors in the valuation process may create conflicts of interest.

There are conflicts related to other arrangements with Stellus Capital Management.

If we fail to maintain our status as a BDC, our business and operating flexibility could be significantly reduced. Because we have received Board and stockholder approval, we are subject to 150% Asset Coverage. This approval allows us to incur twice as much debt as we could have without such approval, potentially heightening the risks associated with leverage described above.

The effect of global climate change may impact the operations of our portfolio companies. Existing stockholders may incur dilution if, in the future, we sell shares of our common stock in one or more offerings at prices below the then current net asset value per share of our common stock.

Conflicts of Interests

We may have conflicts of interest arising out of the investment advisory activities of Stellus Capital Management, including those described below.

Our investment strategy includes investments in secured debt (including first lien, second lien and unitranche) and mezzanine debt (including senior unsecured and subordinated debt), as well as related equity securities of private middle-market companies. Stellus Capital Management also manages, and in the future may manage, other investment funds, accounts or investment vehicles that invest or may invest in assets eligible for purchase by us. For example, Stellus Capital Management currently manages private credit funds that have an investment strategy that is identical to our investment strategy. Stellus Capital Management also provides non-discretionary advisory services to the D. E.

Shaw group, pursuant to sub-advisory arrangements, with respect to a private investment fund and a strategy of a private multi-strategy investment fund (collectively with the D. E. Shaw group fund, the D. E. Shaw group funds) to which the D. E. Shaw group serves as investment adviser that have an investment strategy similar to our investment strategy. Our investment policies, fee arrangements and other circumstances may vary from those of other investment funds, accounts or investment vehicles managed by Stellus Capital Management.

In addition, on October 23, 2013, we received the Prior Order from the SEC to co-invest with private funds managed by Stellus Capital Management where doing so is consistent with our investment strategy as well as applicable law (including the terms and conditions of the exemptive order issued by the SEC). On December 18, 2018, we received the Order that supersedes the Prior Order and permits us greater flexibility to enter into co-investment transactions. The Order expands on the Prior Order and allows us to co-invest with additional types of private funds, other BDCs, and registered investment companies managed by Stellus Capital Management or an adviser that is controlled, controlling, or under common control with Stellus Capital Management, subject to the conditions included therein. Pursuant to the Order, a required majority (as defined in Section 57(o) of the 1940 Act) of our independent directors must make certain conclusions in connection with a co-investment transaction, including that (1) the terms of the proposed transaction, including the consideration to be paid, are reasonable and fair to us and our stockholders and do not involve overreaching of us or our stockholders on the part of any person concerned and (2) the transaction is consistent with the interests of our stockholders and is

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consistent with our investment objectives and strategies. We co-invest, subject to the conditions included in the Order, with private credit funds managed by Stellus Capital Management that have an investment strategy that is similar to or identical to our investment strategy, and we may co-invest with other BDCs and registered investment companies managed by Stellus Capital Management or an adviser that is controlled, controlling, or under common control with Stellus Capital Management in the future. We believe that such co-investments may afford us additional investment opportunities and an ability to achieve greater diversification.

In the course of our investing activities, we pay management and incentive fees to Stellus Capital Management. We have entered into an investment advisory agreement with Stellus Capital Management that provides that these fees are based on the value of our gross assets. Because these fees are based on the value of our gross assets, Stellus Capital Management will benefit when we incur debt or use leverage. This fee structure may encourage Stellus Capital Management to cause us to borrow money to finance additional investments. Our board of directors is charged with protecting our interests by monitoring how Stellus Capital Management addresses these and other conflicts of interests associated with its management services and compensation. While our board of directors is not expected to review or approve each investment decision, borrowing or incurrence of leverage, our independent directors will periodically review Stellus Capital Management's services and fees as well as its portfolio management decisions and portfolio performance. See Risk Factors The incentive fee structure we have with Stellus Capital Management may create incentives that are not fully aligned with the interests of our stockholders in the accompanying prospectus.

Stellus Capital Management may from time to time incur expenses in connection with investments to be made on our behalf and on behalf of other investment funds, accounts and investment vehicles managed by Stellus Capital Management. Stellus Capital Management will allocate such expenses on a pro rata basis according to the participation in a transaction, subject to oversight by our board of directors.

Corporate Information

Our principal executive offices are located at 4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 2200, Houston, TX 77027, and our telephone number is (713) 292-5400. We maintain a website located at www.stelluscapital.com (under the Public Investors section). Information on our website is not incorporated into or a part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus supplement and you should not consider information on our website to be part of this prospectus or any accompanying prospectus.

Recent Developments

Investment Portfolio

On January 4, 2019, we received full repayment on our first lien term loan to EOS Fitness OPCO Holdings, LLC for total proceeds of \$3.1 million. We also received a distribution related to our equity position of \$0.1 million.

On January 7, 2019, we received \$0.3 million in full realization on the equity of OGS Holdings, Inc., resulting in a realized gain of \$0.2 million.

On February 4, 2019, we invested \$8.5 million in a first lien term loan to ASC Communications, LLC, an existing portfolio company.

On February 8, 2019, we invested \$12.3 million in a first lien term loan to Exacta Land Surveyors LLC, a provider of

land surveys and field management services used to facilitate the purchasing, selling, and development of residential real estate in the United States. Additionally, we committed \$1.5 million in the unfunded revolver, \$4.0 million in the unfunded delayed draw term loan, and we invested \$1.0 million in the equity of the company.

On February 15, 2019, we received \$0.05 million in full realization on the equity of Glori Energy Production, LLC.

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On February 28, 2019, we invested \$1.4 million in a first lien term loan to Convergence Technologies, Inc., an existing portfolio company. Additionally, we funded \$5.4 million under the existing delayed draw term loan and an additional \$0.1 million in the equity of the company.

Credit Facility

The outstanding balance under the Credit Facility as of March 13, 2019 was \$115.1 million.

SBA-guaranteed Debentures

The total balance of SBA-guaranteed debentures outstanding as of March 13, 2019 was \$150.0 million.

Dividend Declared

On January 11, 2019, the Board declared a regular monthly dividend for each of January, February and March 2019.

Declared	Ex-Dividend Date	Record Date	Payment Date	Amount per Share
1/11/2019	1/30/2019	1/31/2019	2/15/2019	\$ 0.1133
1/11/2019	2/27/2019	2/28/2019	3/15/2019	\$ 0.1133
1/11/2019	3/28/2019	3/29/2019	4/15/2019	\$ 0.1133

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THE OFFERING

Common stock offered by us

2,750,000 shares

Common stock outstanding prior to this offering

15,953,810 shares

Common stock to be outstanding after this offering

18,703,810 shares (assuming no exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares)

Use of proceeds

The net proceeds from this offering (without exercise of the option to purchase additional shares and after deducting estimated expenses payable by us of approximately \$135,000) will be \$ million. See Use of Proceeds in this prospectus supplement for more information.

Distributions

We pay monthly distributions to our stockholders out of assets legally available for distribution. Our monthly distributions, if any, will be determined by our board of directors.

Our board of directors has declared a regular monthly dividend of \$0.1133 per share payable on April 15, 2019, May 15, 2019 and June 14, 2019 to common stockholders of record on March 29, 2019, April 30, 2019 and May 31, 2019, respectively.

Taxation

We have elected to be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a RIC. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any net ordinary income or capital gains that we distribute to our stockholders. To maintain our qualification as a RIC and the associated tax benefits, we must meet specified source-of-income and asset diversification requirements and distribute annually at least 90% of our net ordinary income and net short-term capital gains, if any, in excess of our net long-term capital losses. See Distributions and Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations in the accompanying prospectus.

New York Stock Exchange symbol

SCM

Trading at a discount

Shares of closed-end investment companies, including BDCs, frequently trade in the secondary market at a discount to their net asset values. The risk that our shares may trade at a discount to our net asset value is separate and distinct from the risk that our net asset value per share may decline. We cannot predict whether our shares will trade above, at or below net asset value. See Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of risks you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock.

Leverage

We expect to continue to use borrowed funds in order to make additional investments. We expect to use this practice, which is known as leverage, when the terms and conditions are favorable to long-term investing and well aligned with our investment strategy and portfolio composition in an effort to

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increase returns to our stockholders, but this strategy involves significant risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus. At our 2018 annual meeting on June 28, 2018, our stockholders approved a proposal to permit the Company to be subject to 150% Asset Coverage with immediate effect. This approval allows us to incur twice as much debt as we could have without such approval. The amount of leverage that we employ will depend on Stellus Capital Management's and our Board's assessment of market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

Our current borrowings include:

Our \$195.0 million Credit Facility, of which \$115.1 million was outstanding as of March 13, 2019;

Our SBA Debentures, of which \$150.0 million were outstanding as of March 13, 2019; and

Our 2022 Notes, of which \$48.9 million were outstanding as of March 13, 2019.

Risk Factors

See Risk Factors beginning on page 17 of the accompanying prospectus for a discussion of risks you should carefully consider before deciding to invest in shares of our common stock.

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The following table is intended to assist you in understanding the costs and expenses that an investor in our common stock will bear directly or indirectly. We caution you that some of the percentages indicated in the table below are estimates and may vary. Moreover, the information set forth below does not include any transaction costs and expenses that investors will incur in connection with each offering of our securities pursuant to this prospectus supplement. Except where the context suggests otherwise, whenever this prospectus supplement contains a reference to fees or expenses paid by us or that we will pay fees or expenses, common stockholders will indirectly bear such fees or expenses.

Stockholder Transaction Expenses:

Sales load (as a percentage of offering price)	% (1)
Offering expenses (as a percentage of offering price)	% (2)
Dividend reinvestment plan expenses	(3)
Total Stockholder Transaction Expenses (as a percentage of offering price)	%

Annual Expenses (as percentage of net assets attributable to common stock):

Base management fees	3.89% (4)
Incentive fees payable under the investment advisory agreement	2.99% (5)
Interest payments on borrowed funds	5.44% (6)
Other expenses	2.83% (7)
Total annual expenses	15.15 %

Represents the commission with respect to the shares of common stock being sold in this offering not including the (1) portion of the commission borne by Stellus Capital Management. There is no guarantee that there will be any sales of our common stock pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

(2) The percentage reflects estimated offering expenses of approximately \$135,000.

(3) The expenses of the dividend reinvestment plan are included in Other expenses.

Our base management fee, payable quarterly in arrears, is 1.75% of our gross assets, including assets purchased with borrowed amounts or other forms of leverage (including traditional and effective leverage such as preferred (4) stock, public and private debt issuances, derivative instruments, repurchase agreements and other similar instruments or arrangements) and excluding cash and cash equivalents and is based on the base management fee incurred for the year ended December 31, 2018.

(5) This item represents the incentive fee payable to Stellus Capital Management based on the actual amounts earned on our pre-incentive fee net investment income for the year ended December 31, 2018.

For purposes of this table, we have assumed that these fees will be payable (in the case of the capital gains incentive fee) and that they will remain constant, although they are based on our performance and will not be paid unless we achieve certain goals.

The incentive fee consists of two components, ordinary income and capital gains:

The ordinary income component, which is payable quarterly in arrears, equals 20.0% of the excess, if any, of our pre-incentive fee net investment income over a 2.0% quarterly (8.0% annualized) hurdle rate, expressed as a rate of return on the value of our net assets attributable to our common stock, and a catch-up provision, measured as of the end of each calendar quarter. Under this provision, in any calendar quarter, our investment adviser receives no incentive fee until our net investment income equals the hurdle rate of 2.0% but then receives, as a catch-up, 100% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income with respect to that portion of such pre-incentive fee net investment

income, if any, that exceeds the hurdle rate but is less than 2.5% subject to a total return requirement and deferral of non-cash amounts. The effect of the catch-up provision is that, subject to the total return and deferral provisions discussed below, if pre-incentive fee net investment income exceeds 2.5% in any calendar quarter, Stellus Capital Management will receive 20.0% of our pre-incentive fee net investment income as if a hurdle rate did not apply. The ordinary income component of the incentive fee is computed on income that may include interest that is accrued but not yet received in cash. The foregoing ordinary income component of the incentive fee is subject to a total return requirement, which provides that no incentive fee in respect of the Company's pre-incentive fee net investment income is payable except to the extent 20.0% of the cumulative net increase in net assets resulting from operations (as defined below) over the then current and 11 preceding calendar quarters exceeds the cumulative incentive fees

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accrued and/or paid for the 11 preceding calendar quarters. In other words, any ordinary income incentive fee that is payable in a calendar quarter will be limited to the lesser of (i) 20.0% of the amount by which our pre-incentive fee net investment income for such calendar quarter exceeds the 2.0% hurdle, subject to the catch-up provision, and (ii) (x) 20.0% of the cumulative net increase in net assets resulting from operations for the then current and 11 preceding calendar quarters *minus* (y) the cumulative incentive fees accrued and/or paid for the 11 preceding calendar quarters. For the foregoing purpose, the cumulative net increase in net assets resulting from operations is the sum of pre-incentive fee net investment income, realized gains and losses and unrealized appreciation and depreciation of the Company for the then current and 11 preceding calendar quarters. In addition, the portion of such incentive fee that is attributable to deferred interest (sometimes referred to as PIK or original issue discount, or OID) will be paid to Stellus Capital Management, together with interest thereon from the date of deferral to the date of payment, only if and to the extent we actually receive such interest in cash, and any accrual thereof will be reversed if and to the extent such interest is reversed in connection with any write-off or similar treatment of the investment giving rise to any deferred interest accrual. Any reversal of such accounts would reduce net income for the quarter by the net amount of the reversal (after taking into account the reversal of incentive fees payable) and would result in a reduction and possibly elimination of the incentive fees for such quarter. There is no accumulation of amounts on the hurdle rate from quarter to quarter, and accordingly, there is no clawback of amounts previously paid if subsequent quarters are below the quarterly hurdle, and there is no delay of payment if prior quarters are below the quarterly hurdle.

The capital gains component of the incentive fee equals 20.0% of our Incentive Fee Capital Gains, if any, which equals our aggregate cumulative realized capital gains from inception through the end of each calendar year, computed net of our aggregate cumulative realized capital losses and our aggregate cumulative unrealized capital depreciation, less the aggregate amount of any previously paid capital gain incentive fees. The second component of the incentive fee is payable, in arrears, at the end of each calendar year (or upon termination of the investment advisory agreement, as of the termination date). We will record an expense accrual relating to the capital gains component of the incentive fee payable by us to Stellus Capital Management when the net unrealized gains on our investments exceed all realized capital losses on our investments given the fact that a capital gains incentive fee would be owed to Stellus Capital Management if we were to liquidate our investment portfolio at such time. The actual incentive fee payable to our investment adviser related to capital gains is determined and payable in arrears at the end of each fiscal year and includes only realized capital gains for the period. See Management Agreements Management Fee and Incentive Fee in the accompanying prospectus.

Stellus Capital Management has agreed to permanently waive any interest accrued on the portion of the incentive fee attributable to deferred interest (such as PIK interest or OID).

- (6) In addition to our existing SBA guaranteed debentures, the 2022 Notes and the Credit Facility, we may borrow funds from time to time to make investments to the extent we determine that additional capital would allow us to take advantage of additional investment opportunities or if the economic situation is otherwise conducive to doing so. The costs associated with any borrowings are indirectly borne by our stockholders. As of December 31, 2018, we had \$150.0 million of SBA guaranteed debentures outstanding, \$48.9 million in aggregate principal amount of 5.75% Notes outstanding, plus accrued interest and approximately \$99.6 million outstanding under the Credit Facility. For purposes of this calculation, we have assumed that the December 31, 2018 amounts of SBA Debentures remain outstanding and have computed interest expense using the weighted average interest rate as of December 31, 2018 of 3.20%. For the 2022 Notes, we have used the fixed interest rate of 5.75%. We have also assumed borrowings under the Credit Facility incur interest at a rate equal to 4.70% per annum the weighted average interest rate as of December 31, 2018. We expect our borrowings over the 12 months following the offering will be consistent with the amounts outstanding as of December 31, 2018. See Senior Securities in this prospectus supplement.

(7)

Includes our overhead expenses, including payments under the administration agreement based on our allocable portion of overhead and other expenses incurred by Stellus Capital Management. See Management Agreements Administration Agreement in the accompanying prospectus.

Example

The following example demonstrates the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses over various periods with respect to a hypothetical investment in us. In calculating the following expense amounts, we have assumed that our annual operating expenses would remain at the levels set forth in the table above.

	1	3	5	10
	Year	Years	Years	Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return (excluding incentive fees)	\$	\$	\$	\$

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While the example assumes, as required by the SEC, a 5% annual return, our performance will vary and may result in a return greater or less than 5%. The incentive fee under the investment management agreement, which, assuming a 5% annual return, would either not be payable or would have a de minimis effect, is not included in the example. If we achieve sufficient returns on our investments, including through the realization of capital gains, to trigger an incentive fee of a material amount, our expenses, and returns to our investors, would be higher. For example, if we assumed that we received our 5.0% annual return completely in the form of net realized capital gains on our investments, which results in a capital gains incentive fee earned, the projected dollar amount of total cumulative expenses set forth in the above illustration and the capital gains incentive fee would be as follows:

	1	3	5	10
	Year	Years	Years	Years
You would pay the following expenses on a \$1,000 investment, assuming a 5% annual return	\$	\$	\$	\$

While the examples assume reinvestment of all distributions at net asset value, participants in our dividend reinvestment plan will receive a number of shares of our common stock, determined by dividing the total dollar amount of the distribution payable to a participant by (a) 95% of the market price per share of our common stock at the close of trading on the payment date fixed by our board of directors or (b) the average purchase price of all shares of common stock purchased by the administrator of the dividend reinvestment plan in the event shares are purchased in the open market to satisfy the share requirements of the dividend reinvestment plan, which may be at, above or below net asset value.

This example and the expenses in the table above should not be considered a representation of our future expenses, and actual expenses (including the cost of debt, if any, and other expenses) may be greater or less than those shown.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Some of the statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus constitute forward-looking statements, which relate to future events or our future performance or financial condition. The forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may include, but are not limited to, statements as to:

our future operating results;
our business prospects and the prospects of our portfolio companies;
the effect of investments that we expect to make;
our contractual arrangements and relationships with third parties;
actual and potential conflicts of interest with Stellus Capital Management;
the dependence of our future success on the general economy and its effect on the industries in which we invest;
the ability of our portfolio companies to achieve their objectives;
the use of borrowed money to finance a portion of our investments;
the adequacy of our financing sources and working capital;
the timing of cash flows, if any, from the operations of our portfolio companies;
the ability of Stellus Capital Management to locate suitable investments for us and to monitor and administer our investments;
the ability of Stellus Capital Management to attract and retain highly talented professionals;
our ability to qualify and maintain our qualification as a RIC and as a BDC; and
the effect of future changes in laws or regulations (including the interpretation of these laws and regulations by regulatory authorities) and conditions in our operating areas, particularly with respect to BDCs or RICs.

Such forward-looking statements may include statements preceded by, followed by or that otherwise include the words may, might, will, intend, should, could, can, would, expect, believe, estimate, anticipate, or similar words.

We have based the forward-looking statements included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus on information available to us on the date of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in our forward-looking statements, and future results could differ materially from historical performance. We undertake no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless required by law or SEC rule or regulation. You are advised to consult any additional disclosures that we may make directly to you, including in the form of a prospectus supplement or post-effective amendment to the registration statement to which this prospectus relates, or through reports that we in the future may file with the SEC, including annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q and current reports on Form 8-K.

You should understand that, under Sections 27A(b)(2)(B) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Act, and Section 21E(b)(2)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 do not apply to statements made in connection with any offering of securities pursuant to this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, if any.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the sale of the 2,750,000 shares of common stock in this offering are \$ million, and \$ million if the underwriter's option to purchase additional shares is exercised in full, after deducting the underwriting discount and estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to repay a portion of the amount outstanding under the Credit Facility, for general corporate purposes, which may include investing in debt or equity securities, and other general corporate purposes, including working capital requirements.

As of March 13, 2019, we had \$115.1 million outstanding under the Credit Facility. The Credit Facility has a maturity date of October 10, 2021. Borrowings under the Credit Facility bear interest, subject to our election, on a per annum basis equal to (i) LIBOR plus 2.50% (or 2.75% during certain periods in which our asset coverage ratio is equal to or below 1.90 to 1.00) with no LIBOR floor or (ii) 1.50% (or 1.75% during certain periods in which our asset coverage ratio is equal to or below 1.90 to 1.00) plus an alternate base rate based on the highest of the Prime Rate, Federal Funds Rate plus 0.5% or one month LIBOR plus 1.0%.

We intend to seek to invest the net proceeds received in this offering as promptly as practicable after receipt thereof consistent with our investment objective. We anticipate that substantially all of the net proceeds from this offering of our securities will be used as described above within three to six months, depending on market conditions. We anticipate that the remainder will be used for working capital and general corporate purposes, including potential payments or distributions to stockholders. Pending such use, we will invest a portion of the net proceeds of this offering in short-term investments, such as cash and cash equivalents, which we expect will earn yields substantially lower than the interest income that we anticipate receiving in respect of investments in accordance with our investment objective.

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The following table sets forth our capitalization as of December 31, 2018:

on an actual basis; and

on an as further adjusted basis giving effect to the assumed sale of 2,750,000 shares of our common stock at a price of \$ per share, less commissions and expenses, and the application of the proceeds thereof.

This table should be read in conjunction with our Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and our financial statements and notes thereto included in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	As of December 31, 2018	
	Actual	As Adjusted (1) (Unaudited)
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$17,467,146	\$17,467,146
Investments, at fair value	\$504,483,668	\$504,483,668
Other assets	\$4,336,437	\$4,336,437
Total assets	\$526,287,251	\$526,287,251
Liabilities:		
5.75% Notes due 2022	\$47,641,797	\$47,641,797
Credit Facility (1)	\$98,237,227	\$
SBA-Guaranteed debentures	\$146,387,802	\$146,387,802
Other liabilities	\$9,175,418	\$9,175,418
Total liabilities	\$301,442,244	\$
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, par value \$0.001 per share (100,000,000 shares authorized; 15,953,810 shares issued and outstanding, actual; 18,703,810 ⁽²⁾ shares issued and outstanding, as adjusted)	\$15,954	\$
Paid-in capital in excess of par value	\$228,160,491	\$
Accumulated net realized loss	\$(10,786,240)	\$(10,786,240)
Accumulated undistributed net investment income	\$5,782,736	\$5,782,736
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on investments and cash equivalents	\$1,672,066	\$1,672,066
Total stockholders' equity	\$224,845,007	\$
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$526,287,251	\$
Net asset value per share	\$14.09	\$

As of March 13, 2019, we had approximately \$115.1 million outstanding under our Credit Facility outstanding.

(1) This table has not been adjusted to reflect the changes in our outstanding borrowings under the Credit Facility subsequent to December 31, 2018.

(2) Excludes up to 412,500 shares of our common stock issuable upon exercise of the underwriters' option to purchase additional shares.

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The following selected financial data for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 was derived from our financial statements which have been audited by Grant Thornton, LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm. The data should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and related notes thereto and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations included elsewhere in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Statement of Operations Data	For the year ended December 31, 2018	For the year ended December 31, 2017	For the year ended December 31, 2016	For the year ended December 31, 2015	For the year ended December 31, 2014
Total investment income	\$53,266,338	\$39,648,193	\$39,490,197	\$35,158,559	\$32,324,847
Total expenses, net of fee waiver	\$30,629,801	\$21,677,433	\$22,177,996	\$18,611,431	\$15,812,750
Net investment income	\$22,636,537	\$17,970,760	\$17,312,201	\$16,547,128	\$16,512,097
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$26,194,578	\$22,613,257	\$23,199,062	\$7,670,536	\$10,179,142
Per Share Data:					
Net asset value	\$14.09	\$13.81	\$13.69	\$13.19	\$13.94
Net investment income	\$1.42	\$1.21	\$1.39	\$1.33	\$1.34
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	\$1.64	\$1.52	\$1.86	\$0.61	\$0.83
Distributions declared	\$1.36	\$1.36	\$1.36	\$1.36	\$1.36
Balance Sheet Data					
	As of December 31, 2018	As of December 31, 2017	As of December 31, 2016	As of December 31, 2015	As of December 31, 2014
Investments at fair value	\$504,483,668	\$371,839,772	\$365,625,891	\$349,017,697	\$315,965,434
Cash and cash equivalents	\$17,467,146	\$25,110,718	\$9,194,129	\$10,875,790	\$2,046,563
Total assets ⁽²⁾	\$526,287,251	\$400,260,855	\$379,878,729	\$365,368,412	\$323,776,402
Total liabilities ⁽²⁾	\$301,442,244	\$180,013,613	\$208,996,944	\$200,717,308	\$149,826,950
Total net assets	\$224,845,007	\$220,247,242	\$170,881,785	\$164,651,104	\$173,949,452
Other Data:					
Number of portfolio companies at period end	57	48	45	39	32
Weighted average yield on debt investments at period end ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾	10.9%	10.8%	11.0%	10.6%	10.9%

(1) Computed using the effective interest rates for all of our debt investments, including accretion of original issue discount.

ASU No. 2015-03 Simplifying the Presentation of Debt Issuance Costs was effective for the quarter ended March (2)31, 2016. Total assets and total liabilities for the periods prior to the effective date have been modified from their respective filings to conform to this presentation.

The weighted average yield of our debt investments is not the same as a return on investment for our stockholders, rather, relates to a portion of our investment portfolio and is calculated before the payment of all of our subsidiaries (3) fees and expenses. The weighted average yield was computed using the effective interest rates for all of our debt investment restated as an interest rate payable annually in arrears and is computed including cash and payment in kind, or PIK interest, as well as accretion of original issue discount.

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MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with our financial statements and notes thereto contained elsewhere in this prospectus supplement.

Statements we make in the following discussion which express a belief, expectation or intention, as well as those that are not historical fact, are forward-looking statements that are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our actual results, performance or achievements, or industry results, could differ materially from those we express in the following discussion as a result of a variety of factors, including the risks and uncertainties we have referred to under the headings "Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements" in this prospectus supplement and "Risk Factors" in the accompanying prospectus.

Overview

We were organized as a Maryland corporation on May 18, 2012 and formally commenced operations on November 7, 2012. Our investment objective is to maximize the total return to our stockholders in the form of current income and capital appreciation through debt and related equity investments in middle-market companies.

We are an externally managed, non-diversified, closed-end investment company that has elected to be regulated as a BDC under the 1940 Act. Our investment activities are managed by our investment adviser, Stellus Capital Management.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. For instance, as a BDC, we must not acquire any assets other than qualifying assets specified in the 1940 Act unless, at the time the acquisition is made, at least 70% of our total assets are qualifying assets. Qualifying assets include investments in eligible portfolio companies. Under the relevant SEC rules, the term eligible portfolio company includes all private operating companies, operating companies whose securities are not listed on a national securities exchange, and certain public operating companies that have listed their securities on a national securities exchange and have a market capitalization of less than \$250 million, in each case organized and with their principal of business in the United States.

We have elected to be treated for tax purposes as a RIC under Subchapter M of the Code. To maintain our qualification as a RIC, we must, among other things, meet certain source-of-income and asset diversification requirements. As of December 31, 2018, we were in compliance with the RIC requirements. As a RIC, we generally will not have to pay corporate-level U.S. federal income taxes on any income we distribute to our stockholders.

As a BDC, we are required to comply with certain regulatory requirements. Prior to June 28, 2018, we were only allowed to employ leverage to the extent that our asset coverage, as defined in the 1940 Act, was equal to at least 200% after giving effect to such leverage. On March 23, 2018, the Small Business Credit Availability Act (the SBCAA) was signed into law, which included various changes to regulations under the federal securities laws that impact BDCs. The SBCAA included changes to the 1940 Act to allow BDCs to decrease their asset coverage requirement to 150% from 200% under certain circumstances.

On April 4, 2018, the Board, including a required majority (as such term is defined in Section 57(o) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act)) of the Board, approved the application of the modified asset coverage requirements set forth in Section 61(a)(2) of the 1940 Act. The Board also approved the submission of a proposal to approve the application of the modified asset coverage requirements set forth in Section 61(a)(2) of the 1940 Act, which was approved by shareholders at the Company's 2018 annual meeting of stockholders. As a result, the asset coverage ratio applicable to the Company was decreased from 200% to 150%, effective June 28, 2018. The amount of leverage that we employ at any time depends on our assessment of the market and other factors at the time of any proposed borrowing.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS**Portfolio Composition and Investment Activity****Portfolio Composition**

We originate and invest primarily in privately-held middle-market companies (typically those with \$5.0 million to \$50.0 million of EBITDA) through first lien (including unitranche), second lien, and unsecured debt financing, often times with a corresponding equity investment.

As of December 31, 2018, we had \$504.5 million (at fair value) invested in 57 companies. As of December 31, 2018, our portfolio included approximately 58% of first lien debt, 30% of second lien debt, 5% of unsecured debt and 7% of equity investments at fair value. The composition of our investments at cost and fair value as of December 31, 2018 was as follows:

	Cost	Fair Value
Senior Secured First Lien ⁽¹⁾	\$ 297,965,589	\$ 292,004,982
Senior Secured Second Lien	155,382,612	149,661,220
Unsecured Debt	25,436,237	23,697,466
Equity	23,959,211	39,120,000
Total Investments	\$ 502,743,649	\$ 504,483,668

Includes unitranche investments, which account for 20.6% of our portfolio at fair value. Unitranche structures may combine characteristics of first lien senior secured as well as second lien and/or subordinated loans and our (1) unitranche loans will expose us to the risks associated with the second lien and subordinated loans to the extent we invest in the last-out tranche.

As of December 31, 2017, we had \$371.8 million (at fair value) invested in 48 companies. As of December 31, 2017, our portfolio included approximately 38% of first lien debt, 48% of second lien debt, 7% of unsecured debt and 7% of equity investments at fair value. The composition of our investments at cost and fair value as of December 31, 2017 was as follows:

	Cost	Fair Value
Senior Secured First Lien ⁽¹⁾	\$ 140,915,106	\$ 141,006,923
Senior Secured Second Lien	181,164,730	178,432,850
Unsecured Debt	27,903,141	27,430,000
Equity	18,470,229	24,969,999
Total Investments	\$ 368,453,206	\$ 371,839,772

Includes unitranche investments, which account for 13.2% of our portfolio at fair value. Unitranche structures may combine characteristics of first lien senior secured as well as second lien and/or subordinated loans and our (1) unitranche loans will expose us to the risks associated with the second lien and subordinated loans to the extent we invest in the last-out tranche.

Our investment portfolio may contain loans that are in the form of lines of credit or revolving credit facilities, which require us to provide funding when requested by portfolio companies in accordance with the terms and conditions of the underlying loan agreements. As of December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, we had unfunded commitments of \$21.2 million and \$8.7 million, respectively, to provide debt financing for eleven and four portfolio companies, respectively. As of December 31, 2018, the Company had sufficient liquidity to fund such unfunded commitments

should the need arise.

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The following is a summary of geographical concentration of our investment portfolio as of December 31, 2018:

	Cost	Fair Value	% of Total Investments at fair value	
Texas	\$ 100,229,354	\$ 97,474,226	19.32	%
California	86,550,134	85,880,918	17.03	%
New Jersey	43,513,698	41,473,072	8.22	%
Ohio	36,209,514	36,273,224	7.19	%
Illinois	19,941,053	29,880,018	5.92	%
Canada	27,902,537	27,935,931	5.54	%
Arizona	21,682,522	21,603,741	4.28	%
South Carolina	20,871,587	20,385,325	4.04	%
New York	20,446,690	20,287,086	4.02	%
Tennessee	20,117,218	19,381,134	3.84	%
Arkansas	17,696,537	18,013,941	3.57	%
Pennsylvania	17,732,831			