



# Community Partner & SSB Staff Forum

April 8, 2025

# HOUSEKEEPING

- Welcome to the SSB Community Partners + SSB Staff Forum.
- **ASL Interpreters** are designated as “co-hosts”, so they appear at the top of your participant list. If you need ability to “multi-pin” please message [Susan.Kusz@state.mn.us](mailto:Susan.Kusz@state.mn.us) .
- **Closed Captioning** is available. A livestream is linked in the chat.
- **Microphones:** Please keep your microphone muted unless you are talking and identify yourself when speaking.
- **Technical Issues:** If you have technical issues, please contact [Jennifer.Beilke@state.mn.us](mailto:Jennifer.Beilke@state.mn.us).
- **Recording:** The session will be recorded and distributed by Gov.delivery along with the agenda, and presentation.

# AGENDA

- **Welcome:** *Susan Kusz, Community Partner Relations and Contracts Specialist Assistant, Jennifer Beilke, Community Partner Relations and Contract Specialist and Natasha Jerde, SSB Director*
- **WF1 – Conversation with Laura Cheney, Angela Kraninger, Josh Howie, Amanda**
- **SSB Community Partners Team Updates and Announcements:** *Natasha Jerde, Susan Kusz, and Jennifer Beilke*
  - Director's Note
  - Progress Updates – Accessibility, Website, Monitoring Updates, Elevator Pitches
- **Wrap up/Adjourn:** *Susan Kusz, Jennifer Beilke, and Natasha Jerde*





# WF1

## Laura Cheney & Susan Kusz

- **Invoicing template**
- **WF1 - roll out plans**

- **What is it?**
- **Where is it?**
- **Why is it?**
- **How is it?**
- **When is it?**
- **Who is it for?**

QUESTIONS 

# Thank You!

**Jennifer Beilke** 651-539-2273 [Jennifer.Beilke@state.mn.us](mailto:Jennifer.Beilke@state.mn.us)

**Susan Kusz** 651-539-2271 [Susan.Kusz@state.mn.us](mailto:Susan.Kusz@state.mn.us)

**2025 Drop In Café – May 13th, 8:30 a.m.**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m.**

**2025 Quarterly Forums: July 8, October 14, 2025**



# Funding Notice

*The Minnesota State Services for the Blind VR program receives 78.69 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For federal fiscal year 2023, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$10,410,449. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$2,817,568) were funded by Minnesota state appropriations.*



# SSB Updates and Announcements

*Susan Kusz, Jennifer Beilke, and Natasha Jerde*

# Updates and Announcements

- **Director's Note – *Natasha Jerde***
- **Progress Updates – *Susan Kusz, Jennifer Beilke***
  - **Accessibility - New Documents – fillable forms**
  - **Website and CP Manual – What's New?**
  - **Monitoring Update – Ramping up**
  - **Elevator Pitches – *Lisa Rogers***

## Director's Note – Jon Benson on behalf of *Natasha Jerde*

- **VRS – Workforce Reductions**
- **SSB Return to Office**
- **News from the National Landscape**
- **Budget forecast**
- **DIF Grant**

# Progress Updates – *Susan Kusz, Jennifer Beilke*

- **Accessibility - New forms available**
- **Website and CP Manual - SWIFT, Workgroup Manual**
- **Monitoring Update – Starting April 21<sup>st</sup>**
  - **Spotlight on those being monitored**
- **Elevator Pitches – *Lisa Rogers - Duluth***