

Terminology

State Services for the Blind (SSB) will use “Community Partner(s)” to identify our contracted service providers. The terminology used to identify the same service providers varies by state agency. For example, in the State Wide Integrated Financial Tool (SWIFT), which is the online financial, procurement, and reporting system used by the State of Minnesota, anyone who receives a payment from the State of Minnesota is referred to as a “Supplier” or “Community Partner” by SWIFT, and contract holders are referred to as “Contractors”.

SSB provides vocational rehabilitation services (VR) to customers who are blind, low vision, or deafblind to assist them in reaching self-sufficiency. Our Senior Service Unit (SSU) also provides VR services, but those services are known as Independent Living Customer Services Record (ILCSR).

SSB contracts with Community Rehabilitation Programs, otherwise referred to as CRPs. They provide a variety of vocational rehabilitation (VR) services, including:

- adjustment to blindness (ATB) training,
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS),
- and employment-related services.

The term “Community Rehabilitation Program*” (CRP) comes from the federal and state governments and is defined as a program that directly or indirectly provides one or more of the prescribed vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities.

*Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, section 361.5(c)(7) and in Minnesota State Administrative Rule 3325.0110 Subp. 12a.