**Benefits Counseling**

**3 Main Funding Sources:**

* **Ticket to Work Helpline** – **Work Incentives Planning & Assistance Program (WIPA)**
	+ Refer the Participant who is receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) AND one of the following applies:
		- Are working
		- Have a job offer pending
		- Are age 14–25, (even if not actively pursuing work)
		- <https://choosework.ssa.gov/about/meet-your-employment-team/#WIPA>
* **HCBS Community HealthChoices** waiver (payor of last resort)
	+ Refer the Participant who does not meet eligibility category of WIPA
	+ Examples of appropriate referrals –
		- Participant aged 30 and not working
		- Participant aged 60 and is looking for work, but hasn’t received a job offer yet
		- Participant aged 26 and not sure if they want to work
		- Participant who called Ticket to Work Helpline and representative stated not eligible for referral to WIPA
* **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)**
	+ For the Participant who wants benefits counseling AND various other supports to explore employment now – They state “I want to work.”
		- PHW team will support with making referral per updated 2024 process.

**Three types of HCBS Benefits Counseling (W1740):**

1. **Initial Benefits Counseling** – For Participant actively considering or seeking individualized integrated employment or self-employment, or career advancement in these types of employment: up to twenty (20) hours. This service may be authorized no more than once every two (2) years (with a minimum of two 365-day intervals between services).
2. **Supplementary Benefits Counseling** - For a Participant evaluating a job offer/promotion or self-employment opportunity: up to an additional six (6) hours.
3. **Problem-Solving services** - For a Participant to maintain competitive integrated employment: up to eight (8) hours per situation. This service may be authorized up to four (4) times per year if necessary for the individual to maintain individualized integrated employment or self-employment.