Using ARRA funding, in 2010 the KY Office of Vocational Rehabilitation funded a pilot project to develop the Kentucky Benefits Information Network (KY BIN). Modeled after the Indiana Benefits Network, the BIN seeks to develop approximately 40 Liaisons throughout the Commonwealth who will collaborate with the Social Security Administration, Community Work Incentive Coordinators and the WIPA programs, and other federal and state benefit partners and programs to provide benefits consultation to people with disabilities who desire to return to work. The KY BIN pilot project is administered by the University of Kentucky, Human Development Institute, the same Center which houses our Dartmouth/Johnson and Johnson/IPS Statewide Coordinator.

Funding for the direct services provided by trained BIN Liaisons will come from a fee-for-service established by KY OVR. For this fee, Liaisons complete both a Benefits Information Screening Profile and a Strategic Plan for Benefits Management and Support. (See attachments)

The ARRA funded project has given preference to participants who are staff from the pilot projects with Dartmouth/Johnson and Johnson/IPS. Trainings are offered in October-November 2010 and April-May 2011. Rebecca R. Banks Consulting is providing the same training as was developed in Indiana, followed by the technical assistance to trainees to complete the Certification Process.

Kentucky has applied to be a Community Partner Host for the CWIC training provided at no charge by the National WIPA Training and Technical Assistance Project through Virginia Commonwealth University, which would be open to all participants who have completed the KY BIN training, and others referred by KY OVR. Once again, Dartmouth Pilot Project staff will be given preference. As a result, all four of the initial pilots in KY should have CWIC Certified staff, which will significantly enhance the project success.

A website is in progress, but is not available presently. However, to see the Indiana model which we are following visit:  
http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/disabilitybenefitsandwork

For further information about the KY BIN, please contact Carolyn Wheeler, Coordinator, at carolynwheeler1210@gmail.com