On Average, the Top 1 Percent Earns in Just Over One Week What Middle-Income Residents Earn in One Year

Californians’ Average Adjusted Gross Income, 2013

- The wealthiest 1% of Californians earned $1.6 million, on average, in 2013, while the middle fifth earned an average of just $37,000. This means that the average Californian in the top 1% earns in just over one week what many middle-income residents earn in one year.

- The wealthiest 1% have disproportionately benefited from the economic recovery. By 2013, these high earners had regained, on average, nearly half (46%) of the income they lost during the Great Recession. In contrast, the average incomes of Californians in each of the bottom four-fifths remained stagnant.

- Investing in key public services and supports would expand opportunities for Californians who’ve been left behind by the recovery. For example, policymakers could strengthen CalWORKs, continue to reinvest in subsidized child care and preschool, and support extensive outreach for the new state Earned Income Tax Credit.