



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

For Use Through:
Wednesday, August 22, 2007 10:30 a.m.

A Generation of Widening Inequality

New Report Shows Widening Gap Between Low- and High-Wage Workers in Recent Decades

Teleconference Wednesday, August 22 for Media Only

SACRAMENTO -- A new report by the California Budget Project (CBP) documents employment, wage, and income trends in California since the late 1970s, and finds that the gap between the state's rich and poor has widened. *A Generation of Widening Inequality: The State of Working California, 1979 to 2006* identifies a growing divide between the earnings of the state's low- and high-wage workers in recent decades. The report finds that income -- which includes wages as well as other sources of income, such as investments -- has become increasingly concentrated among the wealthiest Californians. It also shows that the state's job growth has largely occurred in low-wage and high-wage jobs, with substantially less growth in jobs in the middle of the earnings distribution.

The report is embargoed for publication until 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 23, but is available now to reporters who agree to honor the embargo. A supplement to the report, which provides population, employment, and poverty data for California's counties, is also available. To obtain a copy of the report and/or the county supplement, email lgardiner@cbp.org or call Lisa Gardiner at (916) 444-0500.

- WHAT:** Audio teleconference on "A Generation of Widening Inequality: The State of Working California, 1979 to 2006"
- WHO:** Alissa Anderson Garcia, policy analyst, California Budget Project
Jean Ross, executive director, California Budget Project
- WHEN:** Wednesday, August 22, 10:30 a.m.
- CALL IN NUMBER:** 1-800-290-9461
- PASSWORD:** WORKING
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