AI PAID ME · FREE DOWNLOAD

AI Side Income Starter Kit

10 real paths people used to earn money with AI, with the numbers exactly as their sources reported them, and the first three steps to try each one yourself.

Every figure in this kit is copied from a published story on aipaidme.com, and every story links its original source. Each one says whether a reporter checked documents or the person reported the numbers themselves.

Compiled Oct 17, 2026 by AI Paid Me (Tina Sangermano). This kit has no affiliate links.

How to read this kit

Verified by outlet
A journalist says they checked documents, like pay stubs, payout records or dashboards.

Self-reported
The numbers come from the person, in an interview, an essay or their own post. They might be true. Nobody checked the paperwork.

- **Revenue isn't take-home pay.** Most figures are revenue before costs. The small line under each number says what kind of money it is.
- **These are standouts, not averages.** Most of these people had years of skill, an audience, or both before the money showed up. Results vary, and many people earn little or nothing.
- **Start smaller than they did.** Each path gives you three low-cost first steps. The full guide on the site has the rest, with tool prices taken from each tool's own pricing page.
- **Prices change.** Costs below were checked on the dates shown in each online guide. Check the tool's pricing page before you pay for anything.
- **Never pay to get paid.** Real platforms and clients pay you. Skip anything that asks for a "starter fee."

Quick match: which path fits you?

If you have…	Try
A few spare hours and want to start this week	01 Rate and train AI chatbots
Professional expertise (teaching, law, science, medicine, finance)	02 Expert AI training
A service people already pay you for	03 Turn it into an AI tool · 05 Automations for small businesses
A niche you know well and like making things	04 Printables and workbooks · 07 A small online shop
Something to teach and enjoy writing	06 A newsletter
Patience for video, or videos already on YouTube	08 Long-form narrated YouTube · 09 Dub your videos
Someone close to you with an everyday problem	10 Build a small app

01 Get paid to rate and train AI chatbots

Amanda Overcash, a single mom in Texas who works in real estate

“nearly $8,000 in under three weeks”

Gross pay from one project

On one chatbot evaluation project, she “started at $22 an hour, which increased to $40 an hour,” bringing in “nearly $8,000 in under three weeks.”

Verified by outlet Source: Business Insider, Apr 25, 2025

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Join the Prolific waitlist.** Prolific says joining the waitlist takes about 3 minutes. When you're invited, identity verification and a short practice task take about 15 minutes. You can cash out once you've earned at least $6/£6. Cost: Free to join
2. **Apply to Outlier if you have subject expertise.** Outlier recruits graduates and experts to write and check AI answers. It says there are "no minimum hours" and that pay is "paid weekly." Fill in your education and skills carefully, because that decides which projects you see. Cost: Free to apply
3. **Look at one or two more platforms.** Overcash also uses Appen, OneForma, and Amazon Mechanical Turk. Read each site's requirements before you sign up. More platforms means more chances when one goes quiet. Cost: Should be free. Never pay to join.

Watch out: Paying a "training fee" or buying a starter kit. Real platforms pay you.

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/ai-training-side-hustle-rating-chatbots/

02 Train AI models with your professional expertise

Utkarsh Amitabh, 34, a U.K.-based entrepreneur, author, university lecturer and Oxford Ph.D. student

“nearly $300,000” (confirmed by micro1)

Gross freelance pay, including bonuses

Amitabh “now earns $200 per hour for his work training AI models for micro1, based on a pay stub viewed by CNBC Make It.”

Verified by outlet Source: CNBC Make It, Dec 19, 2025

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Write down your strongest specialty.** List the one or two areas where you could catch an expert-level mistake: a profession, a science, a language, finance, law, medicine, teaching, and so on. Cost: Free
2. **Read how micro1 works.** Read micro1's experts page and FAQ before you apply. The process is: apply for opportunities, take an AI interview, get onboarded, then start earning. Note the list of countries where it can't hire. Cost: No application fee is listed
3. **Polish your profile.** Update your résumé so your specialty is obvious in the first few lines. Add concrete details: years of experience, credentials, and the kinds of problems you've solved. Cost: Free

Watch out: Applying for expert roles outside your real expertise. Projects are built to catch mistakes, including yours.

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/expert-ai-trainer-micro1-200-an-hour/

03 Turn a service you do by hand into an AI tool

Jen Glantz, founder of Bridesmaid for Hire and a mom of one in Brooklyn (37 when she wrote about this in April 2025)

“an average of $5,380 a month”

Monthly revenue from the AI tools, her own figure (she doesn't say whether costs are taken out)

Glantz, on her AI speech, vow and eulogy tools: “These tools bring in an average of $5,380 a month.”

Self-reported Source: CNBC Make It (essay by Jen Glantz, contributor), Apr 14, 2025

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Pick one repeatable service and gather your best examples.** Choose the thing people already ask you for over and over: a toast, a cover letter, a meal plan, a lesson plan. Collect 20–50 of your best past examples and strip out names and private details. Cost: Free
2. **Test demand before you build anything.** Do what Jen does now: write two or three helpful posts on the topic and send them to your email list, then see who clicks and replies. Cost: $0 on the free plan (up to 10,000 subscribers)
3. **Turn your process into 10–20 questions.** Jen's tools ask 15 to 20 questions, then offer a length and a tone. Write the questions you'd ask a real client, in order, plus the follow-ups you'd ask when an answer is thin. This is the part a general chatbot won't do for you. Cost: Free

Watch out: Building a big product before anyone has asked for it. Jen once spent a few hundred dollars and over 20 hours on a course nobody bought.

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/ai-wedding-speech-tools-jen-glantz-bridesmaid-for-hire/

04 Sell printables and workbooks you build with AI

Rebecca Beach, a former UX designer and developer who runs shop.mombeach.com

“double my income to up to $20,000 a month”

Income, as she describes it

“I was making $10,000 a month until I started vibe coding, which enabled me to double my income to up to $20,000 a month.”

Self-reported Source: Business Insider (as told to Jane Fazackarley), Aug 5, 2025

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Find a real problem.** Read the questions people ask in Facebook groups or forums in your niche. Write down five problems you see again and again. Beach surveys her email list and reads Facebook groups in her niche. Cost: Free
2. **Brainstorm product ideas with AI.** Give ChatGPT one problem and ask for 10 printable product ideas (checklist, planner, tracker, workbook). Pick the simplest one that clearly solves the problem. Cost: Free plan available. Plus is $20/month.
3. **Sketch the layout.** Draw the pages on paper. Beach uploads her sketch to ChatGPT so it can see what she means. Uploads are limited on the free plan. Cost: Free

Watch out: Copying other sellers' designs, characters, or brand names

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/ai-printables-vibe-coded-workbooks-etsy-shopify/

05 Set up AI automations for small businesses

Dmytro Negodiuk, founder of Negodiuk AI Consulting in Brooklyn, New York

“$11K revenue/mo”

Revenue

Starter Story lists Negodiuk AI Consulting at “$11,000 revenue/mo,” with 1 founder and 0 employees.

Self-reported Source: Starter Story, Apr 3, 2026

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Time one task for a week.** Pick something dull and repetitive, like answering the same email, copying form entries, or sending reminders. Log how many minutes it takes each day. Cost: Free
2. **Map the steps.** Write each step on paper. Mark which ones need human judgment and which are copy-paste. Automate only the copy-paste parts at first. Cost: Free
3. **Build a two-step automation.** On Zapier's Free plan you get 100 tasks a month and two-step Zaps (one trigger, one action). Multi-step Zaps need Pro, from $19.99/month billed annually ($29.99 monthly). Cost: Free, or Pro from $19.99/month

Watch out: Letting AI send messages to customers without a human review

Full story and all 9 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/ai-automation-consulting-small-business/

06 Start a newsletter that explains AI simply

Rowan Cheung, founder of The Rundown AI (Vancouver, Canada)

“booked $3 million in 2024 revenue”

Company revenue

Forbes: “The bootstrapped startup booked $3 million in 2024 revenue and projects $7 million in 2025.”

Self-reported Source: Forbes, Jan 1, 2026

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Define your reader and your promise.** Write one sentence, like: "Every Friday, three AI tools I tested for homeschool families, in five minutes." Cheung's version was simplifying AI news "for the everyday person in five minutes." Cost: Free
2. **Write three issues before you launch.** Use AI to brainstorm and outline if you like. Test every tool yourself and check every fact. Your readers are trusting you, not the AI. Cost: Free plans available
3. **Set up a free beehiiv publication.** The Free plan includes up to 2,500 subscribers, unlimited email sends, a newsletter website, email templates, and landing pages. Cost: $0

Watch out: Publishing AI-written "news" without checking it

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/ai-newsletter-the-rundown-beehiiv/

07 Use AI to run a small online shop better

Therese Waechter, owner of Otto's Grotto in Indiana

AI was “one of the reasons I was able to more than double my revenue in 2024”

Revenue growth (no 2024 dollar figure given)

“I ended up doing about $50,000 in sales in 2021.”

Self-reported Source: Business Insider (as told to Jamie Phillis), Apr 24, 2025

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Rewrite one listing with AI.** Paste a product's title, description, and details into ChatGPT and ask for a clearer version. Keep only what's true and sounds like you. Cost: Free plan available. Plus is $20/month.
2. **Generate tags and social captions.** Waechter uses ChatGPT for hashtags and social copy. Ask for 20 tags, then delete any that don't describe the item. Cost: Free
3. **Learn the basics of your theme.** Her advice: first ask ChatGPT to explain how the code on your platform fits together. For Shopify, that means Liquid, sections, and templates. Cost: Free

Watch out: Editing your live theme instead of a duplicate

Full story and all 9 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/sticker-shop-chatgpt-shopify-vibe-coding/

08 Make long-form narrated YouTube videos

Adavia Davis, 22, a college dropout (per Fortune)

“roughly $40,000 to $60,000 a month in revenue”

Revenue, not profit

Davis told Fortune his network generates “roughly $40,000 to $60,000 a month in revenue.”

Verified by outlet Source: Fortune, Dec 30, 2025

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Read YouTube's monetization rules first.** Read the Partner Program page before you make anything. To apply you need 1,000 subscribers plus 4,000 qualified watch hours in the last 12 months (or 1,000 subscribers plus 10 million qualified Shorts views in 90 days). Cost: Free
2. **Pick one niche and list 10 video ideas.** Choose a long-form topic people return to, like calm history, nature, or science explainers. Ask Claude for 30 angles, then keep the 10 you'd actually want to research. Cost: $0 on the Free plan
3. **Draft your first script, then fact-check it.** Have Claude outline and draft the script, then check every date, name, and claim against at least two reliable sources. AI makes confident mistakes, and viewers notice. Cost: Free plan has usage limits. Pro is $20/month billed monthly ($17/month billed annually).

Watch out: Pumping out near-identical videos. YouTube's monetization policies are what decide whether you get paid.

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/faceless-youtube-history-channels-claude-elevenlabs/

09 Dub your videos into a second language

Jordi van den Bussche, 29, the longtime YouTuber known as Kwebbelkop, in Amsterdam (per CNBC)

“more than seven figures in revenue”

Total revenue to date, not profit (no time period given)

CNBC: “Bloo has already generated more than seven figures in revenue, according to van den Bussche.”

Self-reported Source: CNBC (Zach Vallese), Jul 2, 2025

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Check that your channel can add dubbed tracks.** YouTube's multi-language audio feature lets you upload extra audio tracks to a video, but it's only available to creators with access to Advanced features. Check this first in YouTube Studio. Cost: Free
2. **Pick one language from your own analytics.** In YouTube Analytics, look at where your viewers are and which languages show up in your comments. YouTube says you're a good candidate if you already have viewers in several countries. Pick one language, maybe two at most. Cost: Free
3. **Choose your best short video to test.** Start with a video under about 10 minutes that has good audience retention. Evergreen topics are best, so the dub keeps working for months. Cost: Free

Watch out: Dubbing a video that doesn't hold viewers in your own language. Fix the video first.

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/ai-vtuber-bloo-kwebbelkop-elevenlabs-dubbing/

10 Build a small app for one real person

Kourosh Ghaffari (@BuildingWaves on X), 27, a product manager who grew up in Tehran and moved to London at 18

“anywhere from like 16 to 20K” a month

Monthly revenue, including one-time lifetime-plan sales

Starter Story's headline: “I built this app for my dad. Now it makes $18K/month.”

Self-reported Source: Starter Story, Oct 14, 2026

YOUR FIRST THREE STEPS

1. **Watch one person struggle.** Spend an hour watching someone you love use their computer or phone. Write down every moment they get stuck or slow down. Ghaffari's idea came from watching his dad type one email for ages. Cost: Free
2. **Talk to five people like them.** Find five more people with the same problem (friends' parents, a local senior center, an online community) and ask how they handle it today. You're checking that it's a real "painkiller" problem, not just a nice-to-have. Cost: Free
3. **Check what the AI part will cost.** Look up the price of the AI model you'd use. For speech-to-text, OpenAI lists Whisper at $0.006 per minute of audio. Multiply by how many minutes a heavy user might dictate in a month, so your price covers it. Cost: Whisper: $0.006 per minute

Watch out: Building for yourself instead of for the person with the real problem

Full story and all 8 steps: aipaidme.com/stories/voicy-ai-dictation-app-built-for-dad/

Before you start: one honest page

- **Pick one path for 30 days.** If you switch every week, you never find out what works.
- **Do the free steps first.** Almost every path above starts with steps that cost $0. Only pay for a tool when a step actually needs it.
- **Check AI's work.** Every guide warns about the same thing: AI makes confident mistakes. Your name is on what you sell.
- **Be wary of courses and "systems."** Some people in these stories sell courses. That doesn't make their numbers false, but buy nothing until you've tried the free steps.

More real stories, every week

There are 14 sourced stories on the site right now, each with a full step-by-step guide. Read them all at aipaidme.com/stories, or get new ones by email with **AI Paid Me Weekly** (free) at aipaidme.com.

Know a real story, with a source? Email hello@aipaidme.com.

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