

# GIVE YOURSELF A RAISE

Need some extra cash? It's easier than ever to find a side gig.

BY KATE ROCKWOOD



## You Like...DRIVING Try UBERX

**THE BASICS** UberX drivers must be 21, pass a background check, have a clean driving record (with no more than three minor violations in the last three years), and have auto insurance. Other regulations—like obtaining a for-hire permit—vary by city, county, and state. Uber has a leasing option, but it's best to use your own car.

**WORK IT** Jennifer Clark of Bothell, Washington, worked at a car dealership, but the hours were less than parent-friendly. "Instead of trying to fit my son into my work schedule, I decided to work around his," she says. She loves meeting new people, but her 4.93 (out of 5) rating doesn't come easy. Clark says all the driving "kills" her car, and she pays for repairs. She also prefers to skip late-night drives to avoid drunk, rowdy

passengers. Clark earns \$14 to \$25 per hour after Uber's cut (20 to 30 percent) and gets health insurance through the state exchange.

## You Like...KIDS Try CHIME

**THE BASICS** Sittercity's on-demand service, Chime, is in Chicago, DC, Boston, and NYC. (Sittercity is nationwide.) You'll need child-care chops, references, and to ace an in-person interview and a background check. Then Chime creates a profile, and you list when you're free at least three weeks in advance. Parents use Chime to book jobs during the time slots you set aside.

**WORK IT** Colleen Fee, a Chicago actress, likes that Chime lets her work around auditions and out-of-town jobs. Chime sets the rates for each gig by location and number of kids. One potential downside is last-minute confirmations—like a 3 p.m.

booking for a 6:30 p.m. gig. Fee sits two or three times a week, making \$60 to \$120 a pop before (optional) tips.

## You Like...DOGS Try ROVER

**THE BASICS** You build a profile, provide references, and must pass a background check and safety quiz. Once accepted, you set your own rates. Pet owners book you for dog walking (generally \$15 to \$20 for half an hour), drop-in visits or house-sitting at their place, or day care or boarding (usually \$20 to \$45 per night) at yours.

**WORK IT** After years at a "stuffy, stressful office job" in Phoenix, Melanie Lewis decided to freelance from home and supplement her fluctuating income with Rover. She regularly makes about \$1,000 a month. There are risks: One dog pee-marked his new territory—her house—all weekend. Other energetic dogs need

constant watching, making boarding more of a full-time gig. She tries to do meet-and-greets to acclimate visitors and make sure they play nice with her own dogs.

## You Like...SHOPPING Try INSTACART

**THE BASICS** Instacart shoppers wait at grocery stores to pick and pack up online orders for delivery. They must be 21, pass a background check and phone interview, and take a customer-service quiz. (If fruit is moldy, do you shrug it off or work out a replacement?) No car needed unless you sign up as a delivery driver as well.

**WORK IT** Cassidy Pritchard, a wedding photographer in Austin, Texas, often works weekends, making Instacart a better choice for a side gig than retail or restaurants. "I work at Whole Foods, which is fun even when work is slow," she says. "I hang out in the café or check e-mail." Pritchard makes a flat rate of \$7 per hour (rates vary by market) but as much as \$20 per hour with tips. ■