



⚡ Grounded in 12 sources

Start an AI-Powered Marketing Agency in 2026

How to launch a lean, profitable AI marketing agency—even if you have zero marketing background. Real frameworks, pricing, and automation shortcuts from 7-figure agency operators.

📌 **Updated for 2026** 📄 **\$5,000–\$25,000/mo** Source-reported agency revenue (examples only)

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Start Fast

Clear first steps you can take this week.



Real Sources

Built from people who actually did it.



Honest Numbers

Source-reported pay, costs, and risks.

[Get the Full Guide Vault →](#)

🔒 Includes checklists, scripts & source-backed insights

YOU WILL LEARN

- ✓ Who This Guide Is For
- ✓ Problem This Business Solves
- ✓ The Offer That Actually Sells
- ✓ Business Snapshot
- ✓ Who Pays For It
- ✓ Startup Cost — Real Breakdown

▶ **MODULE 01**

Who This Guide Is For

This guide is for operators who want to build a real, client-serving business—not a side hustle or gig. Perfect for those with no prior marketing or coding experience, but willing to learn and implement proven systems. If you want to run a lean, AI-powered marketing agency that delivers tangible results to small businesses (especially local service providers), this is for you.

▶ **MODULE 02**

Business Snapshot

**\$5,000–
\$25,000/mo**

Source-reported agency revenue (examples only)

\$97–\$297/mo

Typical SaaS tool stack (HighLevel, ChatGPT, DALL-E, Metricool)

1–2 weeks

Time to land first paying client (reported by creators)

\$500–\$2,000/mo

Typical first client retainer (lead gen/social mgmt.)

Zero–\$500

Startup cost (if using free trials and manual outreach)

▶ **MODULE 03**

Problem This Business Solves

Most small businesses are hemorrhaging revenue due to missed calls, unclaimed Google profiles, and lackluster lead follow-up. 62% of calls to small businesses go unanswered

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(source: AI Marketing Hack transcript), costing some local businesses \$65,000–\$281,000/year in lost opportunity. Owners are too busy to fix these leaks or run effective marketing. Your agency solves this by plugging revenue holes with AI-powered lead gen, review automation, and instant response systems.

▶ **MODULE 04**

Who Pays For It

Local service businesses (plumbers, HVAC, med spas, dentists, auto repair, dog groomers, etc.), coaches, and any business that books appointments or relies on inbound leads. These clients pay monthly retainers for lead generation, Google Business Profile optimization, review management, and AI-powered call/DM response. Example: Service-based businesses charging \$500–\$10,000/job are prime targets (see 'The BEST Place to Find Clients' transcript).

▶ **MODULE 05**

The Offer That Actually Sells

The most in-demand offers are: (1) Google Business Profile optimization (claim, complete, and review-boost local listings), (2) AI-powered missed call/text-back setup (using tools like HighLevel Voice AI), and (3) microtrigger social posts that generate inbound leads. Bundling these as a 'done-for-you lead machine' or 'never-miss-a-lead system' is proven to close clients fast. Example: 'I'll set up a system so you never miss another call or DM, and your Google listing brings in 2x more leads—guaranteed first results in 30 days.'

▶ **MODULE 06**

Startup Cost — Real Breakdown

| Item | Cost | Notes |
|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| HighLevel SaaS (agency plan) | \$97–\$297/mo | 30-day free trial available |
| ChatGPT Plus | \$20/mo | For ad copy, posts, scripts |
| DALL-E (optional) | Free–\$15/mo | AI images for posts |
| Metricool (optional) | Free–\$29/mo | Social scheduling/analytics |
| Domain/email | \$0–\$20 | Use Gmail or custom domain |
| Manual outreach | \$0 | No ad spend needed to start |

► MODULE 07

Skill Requirements

| Skill | Level Needed | How to Learn |
|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Google Business Profile | Basic | YouTube, Google Help Center |
| AI tools (HighLevel, ChatGPT) | Beginner | Free tutorials, vendor docs |
| Client communication | Basic | Scripted outreach, templates |
| Copywriting | Beginner | Prompting ChatGPT, editing |
| Social media posting | Basic | Metricool, native platforms |
| Automation setup | Beginner | HighLevel onboarding, vendor support |

Step-by-Step Launch Plan

- 1 Pick a niche you understand or can easily talk to (e.g., local service businesses, coaches).
- 2 Research local businesses with weak Google profiles (few reviews, unclaimed, incomplete info) using Google Maps.
- 3 Sign up for HighLevel (use free trial) and set up a basic agency dashboard.
- 4 Create a lead magnet (e.g., 'Free Google Listing Audit' or 'Never Miss a Lead Checklist').
- 5 Draft a microtrigger post for your own social (or a local business group): offer the lead magnet in exchange for a comment or DM.
- 6 Use ChatGPT to generate ad copy, outreach emails, and social posts tailored to your niche.
- 7 Outreach: DM, email, or call businesses with a specific offer (see script below).
- 8 Close your first client at a low monthly retainer (\$500–\$1,000/mo) to build proof.
- 9 Deliver: Claim/optimize their Google Business Profile, set up missed call/text-back automation, and run microtrigger posts.
- 10 Collect testimonials and case studies to ramp up pricing and scale.

First 7 Days

- 1 Day 1: Choose your niche and make a list of 20–30 local businesses with weak Google profiles.

- 2 Day 2: Set up your HighLevel trial and connect your email/domain.
- 3 Day 3: Use ChatGPT to draft your lead magnet and microtrigger post.
- 4 Day 4: Post in a relevant Facebook group or your own feed with a comment-to-get offer.
- 5 Day 5: DM or email 10 businesses with your audit offer.
- 6 Day 6: Run a free Google Profile audit for any interested leads.
- 7 Day 7: Close your first client and schedule onboarding.

▶ MODULE 10

First 30 Days

- 1 Deliver results for your first client: claim/optimize their Google profile, set up missed call automation, and run a microtrigger post.
- 2 Document before/after results (screenshots, call logs, review count).
- 3 Ask for a testimonial and permission to use results in your outreach.
- 4 Refine your outreach script based on objections and feedback (see LRP framework: Listen, Repeat, Poke).
- 5 Scale outreach to 50+ businesses using a mix of DMs, cold email, and microtrigger posts.
- 6 Test pricing: offer a higher-tier package (\$1,500–\$2,000/mo) with additional services (review automation, social posting).
- 7 Automate onboarding and reporting using HighLevel workflows.
- 8 Systematize: Build templates for audits, onboarding, and reporting.

▶ MODULE 11

Insider Secrets & Shortcuts

- 1 Use HighLevel's prospecting tool to instantly scan and generate audit reports for hundreds of local businesses—no manual research needed. (Source: 'The BEST Place to Find Clients')
- 2 Microtrigger posts (short text posts with a comment-to-get-asset CTA) can generate 100+ leads per post, even with zero followers. Example: 'Comment "leads" and I'll DM you my free checklist.' (Source: 'My Favorite Marketing Strategy for Getting Clients in 48 Hours')
- 3 Automate DMs and follow-up using HighLevel's AI workflows—set up once, and every comment triggers an instant, personalized message and lead capture. (Source: 'My 7 Favorite Marketing Strategies for Getting Clients')
- 4 For outreach, use the LRP framework: Listen, Repeat, Poke. Ask business owners what wastes their time, repeat their pain points, and poke at the cost of inaction. (Source: 'How to Sign Your First AI Automation Client')
- 5 Don't try to look like a big agency at first—start as a freelancer, validate your offer, and only scale once you have proof and a repeatable process. (Source: 'How to Sign Your First AI Automation Client')

▶ MODULE 12

How To Find Your First Customers

Search Google Maps for local businesses with under 20 reviews, unclaimed profiles, or missing info. DM or email them offering a free audit. Post a microtrigger lead magnet in local Facebook groups or LinkedIn. Use HighLevel's prospecting tool to automate this process. Focus on service businesses in smaller towns/suburbs for less competition and higher response rates.

▶ MODULE 13

Copy/Paste Outreach Script

▶ MODULE 14

Pricing Model

| Service | Typical Fee | Notes |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Google Profile Optimization | \$500–\$1,000 (one-time) | Claim, complete, review boost |
| Lead Gen Retainer | \$1,000–\$2,000/mo | Includes ad spend management |
| AI Missed Call/DM Setup | \$500–\$1,500 setup + \$100–\$300/mo | Voice AI, text-back, follow-up |
| Social Media Posting | \$500–\$1,500/mo | Content + scheduling |
| Full 'Done-for-You' Package | \$2,000–\$5,000/mo | All above bundled |

▶ MODULE 15

Upsell Ideas

- 1 Review automation: Set up automated review requests and follow-up for \$300–\$500/mo.
- 2 Appointment booking AI: Add conversational AI for instant bookings via SMS, web chat, or Facebook for \$500–\$1,000 setup.
- 3 Reputation management: Monitor and respond to reviews for \$200–\$500/mo.

- 4 Website refresh: Offer a landing page or full site update for \$1,000–\$3,000.
- 5 Ad campaign management: Run Google/Facebook ads for \$500–\$2,000/mo + ad spend.

▶ **MODULE 16**

Risks / Legal / Compliance

Red Flags & Compliance

Do not claim a business's Google profile without explicit written permission—this can get you banned from Google services. Always disclose if you're using AI for customer communications. Get client approval for all messaging and automation flows. If handling client data, use secure tools and comply with local privacy laws (GDPR, CCPA, etc.).

▶ **MODULE 17**

Source Notes

“62% of calls to small businesses go unanswered... That's \$65,700–\$281,000/year in lost opportunity.”

— **AI Marketing Hack: Grow Without a Website (Beginner-Friendly Strategy)**

- [1] How to Start a Digital Marketing Agency in 2026 (No Experience or Money Needed)
- [2] My Favorite Marketing Strategy for Getting Clients in 48 Hours (Free & Proven)
- [3] The BEST Place to Find Clients Who Are READY to Pay (They NEED Your Help!)
- [4] How to Sign Your First AI Automation Client (Without Starting an Agency)
- [5] AI Marketing Hack: Grow Without a Website (Beginner-Friendly Strategy)

▶ RESOURCE GUIDE

Resources, Certifications & Direct Links

Tap straight into search results, certification training, and paid apprenticeships for this path.

🔍 DIRECT SEARCH LINKS

Google Trends — demand

is it growing? ↗

Reddit — unfiltered reality

real talk ↗

YouTube — free how-tos

walkthroughs ↗

Upwork — who's paying now

live demand ↗

Google — competitor pricing

what to charge ↗

Hack

Set a saved-search alert on **Indeed** + **LinkedIn** for this exact term — new roles hit your inbox before they're crowded.











▶ TOOL GUIDE

Tool Stack — Organized by Category

Every tool for this path, grouped by category. Free tools first, paid last. Tap any logo to open it.









Selling & Monetization

6 free · 4 paid

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------|
|  | Beehiiv | Newsletter + monetization | Free | ↗ |
|  | Gumroad | Sell digital products | Free | ↗ |
|  | Lemon Squeezy | Sell software/digital (handles tax) | Free | ↗ |
|  | Substack | Paid newsletters | Free | ↗ |
|  | Teachable | Host and sell courses | Free | ↗ |
|  | Whop | Sell access, communities, products | Free | ↗ |
|  | Kajabi | All-in-one course/membership | Paid | ↗ |
|  | Shopify | Ecommerce store | Paid | ↗ |
|  | Skool | Paid communities + courses | Paid | ↗ |
|  | Stan Store | Link-in-bio storefront | Paid | ↗ |








Content & Video

6 free · 2 paid

| | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------|------|-------------------|
|  | CapCut | Short-form video editing | Free | ↗ |
|  | CapCut Commerce | UGC ad templates | Free | ↗ |
|  | Descript | Edit video by editing text | Free | ↗ |
|  | ElevenLabs | AI voiceover | Free | ↗ |
|  | HeyGen | AI avatar / UGC video | Free | ↗ |
|  | OpusClip | AI long-to-short clipping | Free | ↗ |
|  | Runway | AI video generation | Paid | ↗ |
|  | Submagic | AI captions + b-roll | Paid | ↗ |







Web & Design

5 free · 2 paid

| | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------------------|------|-------------------|
|  | Canva | Graphics, thumbnails, templates | Free | ↗ |
|  | Carrd | One-page sites (cheap) | Free | ↗ |
|  | Figma | UI/graphic design | Free | ↗ |
|  | Framer | AI website builder | Free | ↗ |
|  | Webflow | Visual website builder | Free | ↗ |
|  | Durable | AI site for local business | Paid | ↗ |
|  | Relume | AI sitemaps + components | Paid | ↗ |





AI Assistants

5 free · 1 paid

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------|-------------------|
|  | ChatGPT | Writing, ideation, prompts, drafts | Free | ↗ |
|  | Claude | Long docs, reasoning, coding, agents | Free | ↗ |
|  | Google Gemini | Google-integrated AI | Free | ↗ |
|  | Perplexity | AI research with live sources | Free | ↗ |
|  | Poe | Many AI models in one app | Free | ↗ |
|  | Grok | X-integrated AI | Paid | ↗ |





Productivity

4 free · 0 paid

-  **Calendly** Booking / scheduling calls Free [↗](#)
-  **Google Sheets** Trackers + light CRM Free [↗](#)
-  **Loom** Screen-record pitches/looms Free [↗](#)
-  **Notion** Docs, dashboards, templates Free [↗](#)

Payments & Finance

3 free · 1 paid

-  **PayPal** Invoices + payments Free [↗](#)
-  **Stripe** Accept payments Free [↗](#)
-  **Wise** Low-fee global payments Free [↗](#)
-  **QuickBooks** Bookkeeping / 1099 taxes Paid [↗](#)

Money tip

Stack the **free** tools first. Only pay once a tool is directly making or saving you money.

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THE JOBHACKI ARSENAL

This guide is 1% of what members get

The community unlocks the tools that do the heavy lifting for you:



OmniCut

Upload any video — get back a timestamped, cut-by-cut edit blueprint: hooks, vocal cues, effects and animation calls, all mapped to the viral frameworks behind our own content. You (or your AI editor) just follow the map.



JobHacki Resume Builder

Our exact one-page, recruiter-tested template — auto-built from your LinkedIn in minutes, exported as an editable doc + PDF.



JobHacki Readiness Simulator

Paste any job link. Get tested on what the role actually requires, see your readiness score, and get the fastest study path to close the gaps.



Atlas Directory

Every guide and career path we publish — refreshed by 24/7 AI researchers so you never act on stale info.

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Join free today — founding-member pricing locks in before the tools go paid.

WHAT EACH TOOL ACTUALLY DOES



OmniCut

OmniCut watches your entire video the way an elite editor would — every frame, the full transcript, your offer and what you're actually selling — then runs it through the viral frameworks behind our own content. What you get back is a timestamped editing score: your video chopped into 10-second sequences, each with exact vocal cues, audio cues, effect calls and animation directions. Copy a sequence, paste it into Gemini Omni, and generate that cut — then the next, then the next, until the whole edit is done. Runs as a custom GPT inside ChatGPT (you'll need a ChatGPT account), purpose-built for Gemini Omni video editing the day it drops.



JobHacki Resume Builder

Drop in your LinkedIn (or paste your experience) and it rebuilds everything into the exact one-page format we use: tight summary line, education with the details recruiters scan for, metric-driven experience bullets, and the 10-category skills stack that beats ATS keyword filters. Out comes a polished PDF plus a fully editable doc — change any line later without starting over. Single-industry and multi-industry versions included.



JobHacki Readiness Simulator

Paste a real job posting link. The simulator breaks down what that role actually demands — skills, tools, terminology, scenarios — and tests you on it: multiple choice, written answers, even voice roleplay for interviews and sales calls. You get a Readiness Score out of 100 across skill match, tool match, communication and interview readiness, plus the exact study plan to close your gaps — linked straight to the guides, certs and resources that fix them.



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The full living library: 100+ grounded, step-by-step playbooks across AI businesses, careers, trades, healthcare paths and side income — every one built from people who actually did it, never theory. Our AI researchers monitor hundreds of creators and sources around the clock, so tools, pay data and methods stay current. Search it, filter it, read online or download any guide as a PDF.

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