ALIA

Allowing workers to book clients, communicate with each other, and make decisions about how the platform should operate

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Worker-owned cooperative

CROWD WORK

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Solutions to underlying social issues

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Lourdes Dobarganes cleans the apartment of a client in San Francisco. She is the kind of domestic worker Alia is trying to serve by allowing individual clients to chip in on benefits. (Photo by Carlos Avila Gonzalez, San Francisco Chronicle/Polaris)

Mercedes Martinez scrubs other people's kitchen sinks and mops their floors every day of the week. At night she comes home to care for one of her sons. The money she makes covers their bills, but not benefits. When she catches the flu, she doesn't get paid. But one of her clients recently introduced her to Alia, a website that helps her