Ready, Willing & Able provides a working way home for homeless men with long histories of incarceration, addiction, and unemployment.

At the core of the 12-month residential program is paid work—complemented by holistic social services, career training, education, and sobriety support. It is the first and only program that combines paid work with comprehensive services to help men become permanently self-sufficient.

The “Men in Blue,” as participants in the program are known, have faced extraordinary hardships, but are determined to change their lives and the lives of their families forever. Since 1990, more than 6,500 men have graduated from Ready, Willing & Able with their sobriety, a full-time job, and a permanent home.

The year-long journey through Ready, Willing & Able takes place over four deliberate, structured phases: Commit to Change, Reenter the Community, Build a Career, and Secure Independence.

“Because of The Doe Fund, I am providing for my kids so they never go down the road I did.”

- Audley Jackson, Ready, Willing & Able graduate & Recruiter with The Doe Fund
Commit to Change
The decision to enter *Ready, Willing & Able* means making a commitment to change. On day one, participants begin earning a paycheck through in-house work assignments while they adjust to the program’s demands. Case managers work 1-on-1 with participants to orient them, assess their needs and set goals—including selecting occupational training and education tracks. In turn, participants commit to maintaining their sobriety and paying any owed child support. They begin a curriculum of evening classes and courses that last the duration of the program, including financial management, parenting, and general education.

MONTHS 2-4
Reenter the Community
After long histories of homelessness and incarceration, reentering the community—and the workforce—is difficult and intimidating. Months two through four of *Ready, Willing & Able* introduce paid off-site work to accelerate earnings and savings, and address social and soft-skill deficits. The Men in Blue earn their nickname in bright blue uniforms, working in teams to beautify New York City’s streets and sidewalks. Along the way, they build self-esteem, teamwork skills, and their savings. In the evenings, the Men in Blue engage in intensive computer and education classes, learning skills critical in the modern workplace.

MONTHS 5-8
Build a Career
In this third phase of *Ready, Willing & Able*, the Men in Blue choose an occupational training track based on their interests, ambitions, and abilities. They transition out of street cleaning teams and join paid, full-time training opportunities within The Doe Fund’s social enterprises. Each training track culminates with a certification or professional license that provides for long-term career sustainability and advancement. In the evenings, the Men in Blue take classes to sharpen job search skills, learn how to write resumes and cover letters, and prepare for job interviews.

MONTHS 9-12
Secure Independence
In the final months of the program, the Men in Blue work closely with housing specialists and career coaches to secure full-time employment and permanent housing: two of the criteria required to graduate from *Ready, Willing & Able*. Successful graduates receive earnings supplement grants post-graduation to ease their transition and move-in kits for their new homes. We stay in touch with alumni, providing career development opportunities, temporary employment, and education advancement support to those who need it—which is why, at our annual graduation ceremony, you’ll often hear among the cheers, “Doe Fund for life!”