

**CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
LATERAL POLICE OFFICER  
APPLICANT GUIDE**



**2026 Continuous Recruitment Process**



**NEW HAVEN  
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICE**



***David Zannelli***  
***Acting Chief of Police***

***Justin Elicker***  
***Mayor***

Dear Applicant:

On behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners and the New Haven Department of Police Service, we encourage you to begin the process that is required to join the ranks of the department as a lateral transfer.

Our mission is to provide pro-active, community police services to the public by furthering the partnership with our community to protect life and property, prevent crime and resolve problems.

We are looking for committed individuals to assist us in fulfilling our responsibilities to the people of New Haven. We hope you'll join us!

Very truly yours,

Acting Police Chief David Zannelli

## APPLICATION PROCESS LATERAL POLICE OFFICER

- It is strongly suggested that you read this entire Applicant Guide **before applying**.
  - This opportunity has several requirements for eligibility. Please ensure that you meet all minimum requirements for this position before applying. These minimum requirements include, **but are not limited to**:
    - Required at time of application:
      - Have graduated from high school or possess State Equivalency Diploma (GED).
      - Possess a valid driver's license.
      - Must be a United States citizen.
      - Must be at least 21 years of age.
      - Candidate must not have been convicted under federal or state law for any felony, or Class A or Class B misdemeanor, or domestic violence, or have committed an act which would constitute perjury or false statement.
- IN-STATE LATERAL ENTRY APPLICANTS - REQUIREMENTS *include*:
- Must hold a valid State of Connecticut POST (Police Officer) certification, which must be current at time of appointment, and maintain certification during course of employment.
  - Must have NOT have had more than 2 years of separation from a law enforcement unit.
- OUT-OF-STATE LATERAL ENTRY APPLICANTS - REQUIREMENTS *include*:
- Must have been employed for at least 2 years in law enforcement.
  - Must not have experienced more than a 3-year break in service from a law enforcement unit.
  - Must be able to meet and maintain throughout the course of employment established and ongoing physical, medical, and psychological requirements.
  - Must possess and maintain a valid Connecticut driver's license by time of completion of Academy.
- MILITARY POLICE LATERAL ENTRY APPLICANTS - REQUIREMENTS *include*:
- Must have been employed for at least 2 years in law enforcement.
  - Must have successfully completed an approved military training program accompanied by a DD214, DA1059, or NAVMC184.
  - Must have been honorably discharged or currently serving in a branch of the United States military.
  - Must have a minimum of 2 years of service as Military Police.
  - The last date of service must be within 2 years.
- If you do not meet the requirements as stated in the Police Officer Lateral job announcement, do not apply for this opportunity! Applicants not meeting the requirements will be disqualified, and unfortunately, the application fee is non-refundable. If you have questions regarding requirements and eligibility, email [NHPDJobs@newhavenct.gov](mailto:NHPDJobs@newhavenct.gov).
  - If you are a New Haven resident as of the date of your application, you may apply for New Haven Domiciled Preference Points, to have 10 points added to your passing score of the examination for this position. You will be required to complete the Application for Preference Points, and provide documentation as described on the form. To learn more, please see the **PREFERENCE POINTS** section later in this guide.
  - Honorably discharged war-time veterans may also have up to 10 points added to their score. See the **PREFERENCE POINTS** section later in this guide for more information.

- The application fee for this position is \$35, due at the time you submit your online application. You may only submit your secure payment by debit or credit card via the PoliceApp.com site. The application fee is non-refundable, regardless of whether you meet the minimum requirements, or if you complete any or all of the phases of the application, testing, and/or hiring process.
- The application fee may be waived in cases of hardship. See section titled **APPLICATION FEE WAIVER** in this guide for instructions on how to request a waiver of the application fee.
- All correspondence and information concerning the application/testing/hiring process will occur by email through PoliceApp.com. Please be sure to login to your PoliceApp.com account regularly during the application / testing / hiring process and check your email to ensure receipt of critical information. Unfortunately, applicants will not be able to use the PoliceApp.com system to communicate directly with Human Resources. However, applicants can contact Human Resources directly by email to NHPDJobs@newhavenct.gov. All applicants are responsible for adjusting their email settings to accept emails from NHPDJobs@newhavenct.gov and from PoliceApp.com.

*The information in this Handbook is a general description of the application and testing process. Please note that any and/or all the components of this process may be changed by the City of New Haven with or without notice. Additionally, the City of New Haven reserves the right to modify the order sequence of testing as may be appropriate.*

## APPLICATION FEE

PoliceApp charges a registration fee. The application fee is **NON-REFUNDABLE** regardless of whether applicants complete all phases of the application, testing, and/or hiring process.

The non-refundable application fee must be paid at the time the application is submitted online through PoliceApp.com.

## APPLICATION FEE WAIVER

In cases of financial hardship (based on 130% of HHS Poverty Guidelines), eligible applicants may request a waiver of the application fee.

To request an application fee waiver:

- You must print and complete the **Application Waiver Request Form** (available to download below the Apply Now or Important Links button on this job announcement on PoliceApp), get it notarized, and submit it as a Revision to your online application via PoliceApp.com by the date of your written exam. Failure to do so will result in your disqualification from the process.
- Complete the Application Fee and Waiver section within the online Employment Application.
- Please ensure that you are eligible for a fee waiver **BEFORE** requesting one.
- *You will not be able to undo the fee waiver request once you select it and submit your application.*

The following are the Eligibility Thresholds for requesting a waiver of the application fee. If you are eligible, you may select the Waiver of Application Fee when submitting your application. You must also complete and submit the corresponding Fee Waiver Form; failure to do so will result in your disqualification.

### 2025 Police Officer Lateral Fee Waiver Eligibility Thresholds

If your annual income is below the corresponding figure in Column C, you may elect to utilize the Fee Waiver option. The figures in Column B are the 2025 HHS poverty guidelines published in the *Federal Register* January 2025, effective through at least June 30, 2026. The Waiver Eligibility Threshold is calculated at 130% of the HHS Poverty Guideline.

A	B	C
Persons in family / household	HHS Poverty guideline	Waiver Eligibility Threshold
1	\$15,650	\$20,345
2	\$21,150	\$27,495
3	\$26,650	\$34,645
4	\$32,150	\$41,795
5	\$37,650	\$48,945
6	\$43,150	\$56,095
7	\$48,650	\$63,245
8	\$54,150	\$70,395
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,500 to Column C for each additional person.		

*For all states (except Alaska and Hawaii).* Source: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

The Department of Human Resources, in concert with PoliceApp, will waive the application fee(s) in cases of financial hardship based on HHS Poverty Guidelines. If you do not meet these income guidelines, you will not be eligible for this waiver. Note that one of the phases of the hiring process will include a thorough background investigation. If the Department learns at that time that an applicant did not meet the eligibility guidelines, had the ability to pay the application fee, and that a request to waive the fee was fraudulent, that candidate will be disqualified from further consideration in the selection process.

## CHIP TEST & FEE

Individuals who apply for the position of Police Officer Lateral for the New Haven Department of Police Service are not required to have taken a Complete Health & Injury Prevention (CHIP) Test. However, if you have successfully taken a CHIP test, please provide that information within your application submission.

Be advised that in all cases you need to continue to maintain your physical fitness so that if you receive a conditional offer of employment as an NHPD police officer, you will be able to achieve required fitness levels.

### *I am already CHIP-Tested:*

- When you submit your application for employment for the New Haven Department of Police Service through the PoliceApp portal, your application should automatically pull your Connecticut CHIP Test results. The uploading of your CHIP Test result should not be necessary, but we encourage you to provide the information.

### *I need CHIP Testing!*

- For those wishing to take the CHIP Test, you can register for an upcoming CHIP Test at [www.CertifyFit.com](http://www.CertifyFit.com). The CHIP Test is currently offered on a monthly basis. Visit the website to find out more.
- Note that the fee for the CHIP Test is currently \$115 (subject to change)
- However, The City of New Haven will subsidize the CHIP Test fee for New Haven residents once per year. As such, the CHIP Test fee for New Haven residents is available at the reduced rate of \$40, once per year.
  - In order to receive this benefit,
    - Complete the Application for New Haven Domiciled Preference Points.
    - Return the completed form with your online Employment Application submission.
    - Return copies of all required documentation as indicated with your online Employment Application.
  - **Applicants who are unable to provide proof of domicile/residency in the City of New Haven are not eligible to receive a reduced fee for the CHIP Test.**
- For those experiencing financial hardship, the City of New Haven offers a CHIP Test Fee Waiver Voucher to cover the full cost of the CHIP Test expense for eligible applicants. See information below.

### **IMPORTANT**

- You **must** be medically cleared by your physician to be capable of safely performing the CHIP Test.
- Print and take the “**Medical Approval Form**,” (also available at: <https://www.certifyfit.com/serve-fit/>) to your physician for their signature.
- **You must bring the physician-signed Medical Approval Form to the CHIP Test.**
- **If you arrive at the CHIP Test without a Medical Approval Form signed by your physician, you will not be allowed to test.**

### **To request a CHIP Test Fee Waiver:**

In cases of financial hardship (based on Waiver Eligibility Thresholds) eligible applicants can request a CHIP Test Fee Waiver Voucher.

- Print and complete the **CHIP Test Fee Voucher Request** located below the Apply Now or Important Links button on PoliceApp.com.
- You must have your completed form notarized.
- Email your completed notarized form request to: [NHPDJobs@newhavenct.gov](mailto:NHPDJobs@newhavenct.gov) as a pdf or a jpeg attachment. Please type “**CHIP Fee Waiver Request**” in the subject line of your email.
- Attach a copy of your notarized form to your application on PoliceApp.
- The City of New Haven will then issue the Voucher that you must submit at the CHIP Test.

## PREFERENCE POINTS

You should be aware of the opportunity for preference points. Below are the current preference points that may be applicable to you.

### **Veteran's Preference Points:**

If you are an honorably discharged war-time veteran, you can have five (5) points added to your passing score. If you are an honorably discharged disabled war-time veteran, you can have ten (10) points added to your passing score.

To claim veteran's preference points:

- Attach a copy of your DD-214 to your online Employment Application submission.
- Attach a copy of your VA-issued rating letter if applicable to your online Employment Application submission.
- Failure to attach these items to your Employment Application submission will result in ineligibility for veteran's preference points.

### **Domiciled (Residency) Preference Points: (New Haven Domiciled Only):**

If you are domiciled (reside) in New Haven, you can have ten points (10) added to your passing score.

To be eligible for these Domiciled Preference Points

- Complete the Application for New Haven Domiciled Preference Points.
- Return the completed form with your online Employment Application submission. Requests for these preference points without the Application for New Haven Domiciled Preference Points will not be honored.
- Submit copies of all required documentation as indicated with your online Employment Application.
- Failure to attach these items (Application for New Haven Domiciled Preference Points + required documentation) to your Employment Application submission will result in ineligibility for domiciled preference points.

If you live in New Haven and you are a war-time veteran, you can apply for both. No claims for preference points of any kind will be honored without documented proof of eligibility. You must follow the prescribed procedures and provide applicable proof as stated on the Preference Points Form. Please note the highest combined maximum preference points are **15** additional points, and the highest score for any civil service exam is **100%**. Preference points are applied to passing scores, up to the maximum score only.

## IF REQUESTING an ADA ACCOMMODATION in the TESTING PROCESS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enables qualified applicants with substantial impairments that affects one or more major life activities the opportunity to request a reasonable modification to the City's policies, practices, and procedures to enable them to apply and/or test for a position with the City.

To apply for an ADA accommodation

- Accommodation requests must be filed with the Department of Services for Persons with Disabilities **immediately upon submission of your on-line application.**
- Complete and submit an ADA Accommodation Request Form online at <https://newhaven.seamlessdocs.com/f/NHADAFForm1>.
- On the form, when prompted for JOB TITLE, enter "Applicant – Police Officer Lateral"

# NEW HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT TESTING & SELECTION PROCESS **TENTATIVE** TIMELINE - 2026 CONTINUOUS RECRUITMENT

The City of New Haven's Civil Service testing process for the position of Police Officer Lateral will include a written exam. Applicants must meet all prerequisites and minimum requirements and submit all applicable fees (or waivers) to participate in the Civil Service testing process. It is the applicant's responsibility to adhere to the City's testing schedule. Unless otherwise stated, there will be no make-up tests or alternate test dates. Any and/or all the components of this process may be changed by the City of New Haven, and the City of New Haven reserves the right to modify the order sequence of testing as may be appropriate.

- **Written Exam Phase: – Dates Ongoing / Anticipated Quarterly**
  - Applicants meeting all prerequisites and minimum requirements will be invited to participate in a written exam. The invitation will contain information regarding the exam process. Information will be communicated via the PoliceApp.com portal.
  - Your written exam score will be valued at 100% of your total score; you must achieve a passing score of 70% or higher for consideration.
  - Candidates that fail any phase of an examination are prohibited from reapplying to the same position for a period of six months.
  
- **Scores and Results** (*dates ongoing; typically within 30 days of exam*)
  - You may receive notification of your exam scores via PoliceApp.com within several days of your exam(s).
  - These score values may not reflect your final score for the New Haven Recruitment Process, as the final score is not assessed until the City of New Haven calculates the value of the written + any applicable preference points.
  - Note also that these final results are not available to candidates until reviewed and certified by the Civil Service Commission.
  
- **Certification of Results** (*dates ongoing; typically within 30 days of exam*)
  - Final score results will be certified by the Civil Service Commission, establishing the official employment lists for the position of Police Officer Lateral. In addition to Commission certification, Eligibility Lists must be signed by the Commission Chair or proxy prior to publication.
  - Candidates who achieve a passing score will appear on an Eligibility List ranked by order of final score.
  - The Civil Service Commission typically meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of a month (once per month), therefore, communication of final results to candidates **may be delayed**.
  - Once certified by the Civil Service Commission, candidates are notified by email through the PoliceApp.com portal of their final score results and rank on the corresponding Civil Service Eligibility List. This notification typically occurs within 48 hours of certification.
  - Additionally, Eligibility Lists are posted online HERE. The Department of Human Resources makes every effort to have these updated within 24 hours of Chair signature.
  - Unfortunately, placement on this Eligibility List does not guarantee an offer of employment.
  - Candidates on this Eligibility List may only be considered for the title of Police Officer Lateral. If you are interested in other positions, you must apply separately.
  
- **Conditional Job Offers Issued** (*Tentatively within 15 days of Certification of Results*)
  - The Board of Police Commissioners will meet and vote on the action of sending conditional offer letters.
  - Conditional offers may then be extended to candidates in rank order on the Eligibility List. These conditional offers are sent through PoliceApp email messaging.
  - This correspondence will contain important instructions and documents that must be completed and returned by the deadline(s) specified.

- The number of conditional job offers made depends on several factors, including: the number of known and anticipated vacancies, and Police Academy and staff availability.
  - Note that in some instances, hiring decisions may be made before all individuals on an Eligibility List have been contacted.
  - This Eligibility List expires one year after certification. It is therefore possible that eligible candidates may be contacted for up to one year from the original certification date.
  - Per Civil Service Rules, candidates are removed from an Eligibility List after they decline two opportunities for employment for the position.
- **Conditional Job Offer Actions Begin** *(After Conditional Job Offer extended)*  
 Specific actions occur after conditional offers of employment are extended. They include:
    - Comparative Certification process
    - Completion of supplemental questionnaire & submission of requested items (not available to candidate until the conditional offer process has begun)
    - Extensive Background Investigation
    - Psychological Examination
    - Comprehensive Medical Examination, including a drug test for controlled substances.
    - Interview(s)
- **Start of Police Academy Classes** *(dates to be determined)*  
 The Board of Police Commissioners will again meet and appoint candidates to begin training at the New Haven Police Academy or a neighboring Police Academy; candidates are notified of status via the PoliceApp.com portal.