



How to Compute Mean Scores: CFAI-AK

Here are the steps for computing the mean scores for the CFAI-AK subscales.
Compute each mean to four decimal places

Step 1

Mean Score. The mean score indicates the average score of the applicant's response. The mean score can range from 1 through 4. Higher mean scores indicate a greater potential to foster. For example, a mean score of 3 would suggest an area of strength.

Example: The applicant scored a total of 137 in the General Questions Subscale. There are 53 statements in the General Questions Subscale. Divide 137 by 53 to get a mean score of 2.58. This applicant's mean score indicates they have a fair potential for fostering children for that particular category. The same method is used to compute the remaining subscales.

The assessment is scored on a scale of 1 to 4 with higher scores representing a greater potential for fostering children. The scale is broken down by the following:

1. None of the time
2. Some of the time
3. Most of the time
4. All of the time

Scores related to the potential to foster are:

Score of 4 = Good

Score of 3 = Fair

Score of 2 = Low

Score of 1 = Poor

Step 2

The Foster Family Assessment – Alaska Native version assesses the following subscales:

- **General Questions** subscale assesses the applicant's potential ability to care successfully for foster children, covering various conceptual domains of foster parenting.
- **Co-Parenting** subscale assesses the applicant's perception of agreement between the two parents regarding child-rearing issues and parenting, as well as the presence of supportive co-parenting behaviors.
- **Integrating Foster Children** subscale assesses the applicant's perception of how children already in the family feel about having foster children join their family.

- **Kinship Care** subscale assesses the applicant’s perceived ability to care for a child who is related, focusing particularly on how the applicant might respond to conflicts that commonly arise when caring for a child of a relative.

Flagged Items: Risks

Some applicants’ answers will raise “red flags” for the worker. These statements are considered potential risks and should be resolved before placement of a child. Answers to be flagged include statements that didn’t have a scored response and answers of “Some of the Time” or “None of the Time” depending on the context of the statement. **Example:** answering “strongly disagree” to “My children want to have a foster brother or sister” would be flagged as a concern

Examples of Flagged Items that present possible risks are:

1. I spank my children.
2. I would keep information from the agency to protect the child’s parents.
3. I’m worried about being threatened by the child’s parents.
4. I don’t need any help caring for the child.
5. I feel pressured to take the child.
6. If foster children refuse to tell me what’s bothering them, I can’t help.
7. I don’t think I need foster parent training.