FROG Scale FAQs

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| Questions | Responses |
| Training | |
| I’m a PSCO Trained Supervisor or Direct Service Staff. What training do I need and how do I get it? | We’ll offer Hop Up to FROG Transition Training for Staff and Hop Up to FROG Transition Training for Supervisors! Both of these self-paced trainings will be available at no charge through the Learning Management System to Network members who’ve previously received PSCO training. Once they are available, we’ll make a big announcement to the Network with information about how to access the training content. |
| I have a staff person who’s never had PSCO training and needs FROG training! How do they get it? | We’ll offer FROG Scale Training and FROG Scale Training for Supervisors starting in November. If you’re someone who gets training directly from the National Office, sign up to get notified about when FROG Scale Training is available! If you’re someone who gets training through your state system, reach out to your HFA State Trainer. |
| Can my whole team go through Hop Up to FROG for Staff together? | We think it’s a great idea to have all your staff go through at the same time and learn from one another! Even if staff are completing the learning at the same time, the training is designed to be self-paced and completed as individual learners in our Learning Management System. |
| I have a new hire who is starting during the last quarter of 2021 – what training should they get as it relates to FROG? | If there is a PSCO training available to you, it’s fine to take that and then complete the Hop Up to FROG Transition Training for Staff self-paced training. If you make the decision that it’s too confusing to send your staff to a training they will only use for a short time, it’s fine to have new hires complete the PSCO Stop Gap training, which will allow them to use the Parent Survey, and then have them go to the full FROG Scale training when it becomes available. |
| Using the FROG Scale | |
| Why is HFA shifting to the FROG Scale? | Based on current research associated with adverse childhood experiences, early childhood trauma, protective factors and positive experiences, plus feedback we received from the HFA Network, major updates, now included on the FROG Scale, were needed to better reflect all of the concerns and strengths that you see reflected in families in your communities. Because we do not own the rights to the Parent Survey, we were unable to make these changes there. This presented an opportunity to make a shift and create the FROG Scale. |
| Do all HFA sites have to use the FROG? | Yes. Beginning with the 8th Edition Best Practice Standards, use of the FROG Scale is required. See Critical Element 2. |
| Does every family who enrolls after Jan 1, 2022 need to receive a FROG Scale? | No. We want users to begin using the FROG Scale as soon as they receive training. HFA will not be offering PSCO training after 2021. We understand that sites will need a bit of time to get all staff trained and up to speed. |
| So is the FROG Scale a new list of questions to ask each family? | No. The FROG Scale is not a list of specified questions. You’ll receive a conversation guide and a scoring guide for each of the domains of the FROG Scale. The intention is that you use the FROG Scale as an opportunity to learn as much about a family as possible. This happens through a warm, caring, and open conversation, rather than a checklist of questions. We want to pay attention to the family’s story. |
| Are there tools to support the identification of specific protective factors that families have (as part of the discussion of family strengths) consistent with the Protective Factors Framework? | All FROG users and supervisors will be provided with a document called “Conversation Starters,” which includes sample questions/comments that can be used to introduce or follow up on topics. Some of the questions in each domain are designed to learn about protective factors. However, these are NOT required questions and staff are encouraged to come up with their own ways of engaging each parent in conversation. For more info and a free training opportunity on the Protective Factors Framework, click [here](https://prosolutionstraining.com/menu/)! |
| How do we determine which family members complete the FROG Scale? | The FROG Scale is completed with at least one, ideally two parents of the focus child(ren). This may be biological, adoptive or custodial parents, or a parent and a partner. In response to questions from the network, we have renamed the categories on the FROG narrative template. We are now calling them Parent #1 and Parent #2/Partner. Parent #2/Partner refers to the co-parent or Parent 1’s partner. |
| Will the HFA Service Plan be updated to match the domains of the FROG Scale? | Yes! We’ll be releasing an updated version of the HFA Service Plan soon! |
| If I have HFA Service Plans in progress from families who enrolled prior to the roll out of the FROG Scale, do we need to transfer those plans to an updated HFA Service Plan? | No! We want to reduce duplicative paperwork as much as possible! Continue using the original HFA Service Plan for your work with these families. |
| Scoring Questions | |
| If a program does not use risk to determine eligibility and serves universally, can the FROG be used and not scored? | Whether or not your site uses the FROG to determine eligibility, it is still scored. Scores allow your site to determine which families may qualify for Accelerated services, and more accurately track the overall level of risk in families you serve. In addition, scores provide your site and the national office with a better picture of who the HFA model is serving. |
| Will the score cut-off be for either parent #1 or #2 or just parent #1 (e.g., Mom)? | When using a cut-off score on the tool to determine eligibility, the cut-off score will apply to either parent. |
| Have the terms MOB (mother of the baby) and FOB (father of the baby) been discontinued? | Yes! We use more inclusive language that reflects exactly who we are talking about: Mom, Dad, Partner, Baby, Grandmother/father, Aunt/Uncle, etc. This language should be used in ALL documentation related to HFA Services (Visit records, supervision documentation, FROG documentation, etc). |
| Are all answers required? | We want you to get as much information as possible, but we also recognize that some parents may be reluctant to share certain information. And that’s ok! This is the parent’s story to tell, in as much (or as little) detail as they feel comfortable. In those cases where you do not have enough information to provide a numerical score, you have the option of scoring a “U” for “unknown.” Domains scored as unknown should also be included on the service plan to signal areas the FSS may want to explore at a later time when the relationship is more fully established (when this occurs it is not necessary to go back and re-score the FROG). |
| Does the FROG Scale give an automatic 4 score to a parent under age 16 years old? For instance, when asking a 14-year-old about stressors related to work, housing, or finances, they usually state they have no stress in those areas. | In the first domain of the FROG Scale (Family Environment), any parent under age 21 can be scored. The parent’s score would be based upon how supported they are feeling as a parent. |
| How will I estimate the number of families in my target population who will be eligible for services? | Good question! With the update to the 8th Edition Best Practice Standards, HFA no longer requires sites to project the estimated number of families who will be eligible. See Standard 1-1.A (8th Edition BPS) |
| Using the data from the FROG Scale | |
| Does the FROG reveal any information as to long- term outcomes for children? | With the FROG Scale, we are looking at the presence of risk and protective factors. The FROG Scale, similar to the Parent Survey, is not intended to predict long-term outcomes for children. |
| How do I get a copy of the data dictionary? | The HFA National Office has developed a data dictionary for the FROG assessment, which outlines the minimum data that should be recorded specific to FROG. Technical staff involved in developing case management systems can request this from [rreid@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:rreid@preventchildabuse.org). |
| Is the FROG Scale an evidence-based, research-based tool? | Yes! This is a valid tool to work with families. If you need additional information on research or evaluation with the FROG, please reach out to Kathryn Harding – <kharding@preventchildabuse.org>. |