

HCBS Final Rule Evidentiary Package

North Star Assisted Living



Setting information

Setting name: North Star Assisted Living

Street address: 400 S McKinley St, Warren MN 56762

Phone: (218) 745-5282

ID # 1659725364

Setting website, if applicable: [North Star Manor in Warren, MN](#)

Date of site visit: 5/12/2025

Funding and waiver service type

Waiver	Service type
<input type="checkbox"/> Elderly Waiver (EW) <input type="checkbox"/> Brain Injury (BI) <input type="checkbox"/> Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private pay or other third-party insurance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pending HCBS service provider. Not yet approved for waiver funding pending heightened scrutiny determination.	Customized living service

Reason for heightened scrutiny

Prong type	Name of institution
Prong 1 Located in a Public or Private Institution	North Star Manor Long Term Care

Note: The term people/person (resident for residential settings) refers to people receiving customized living services.

General summary

Geographic information:

North Star Manor is a continuum of care campus that includes Senior Housing Apartments, an Assisted Living Facility and a Skilled Long Term Care facility. The North Star Manor campus is owned and operated by the Warren Economic Development Association which is a city governing board. North Star Manor is a long-time partner of and connected to North Valley Health Center, a primary care medical facility consisting of a Critical Access Hospital and Rural Health Clinic. North Valley Health Center is a community owned hospital that is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and is operated by a board of directors.

North Star Assisted Living, located on the North Star Manor campus is located in Northern MN in a town named rural town named Warren. The population was 1,605 at the 2020 census. The campus is located in the town, next to a daycare facility, stores and residential homes.

Number of people served:

North Star Assisted Living is a licensed assisted living facility and is licensed to serve 26 residents. The building consists of two identical hallways connected by a main entrance. Each hallway has 10 apartments for a total of 20 apartments, six of which are two-bedroom apartments. As of May 12, 2025, North Star Assisted Living is currently serving 16 residents, all funded by private pay sources.



North Star Assisted Living floor plan

Customized living provider standards/qualifications

Licensure requirements and other state regulations for customized living services clearly distinguish these services/settings from institutional licensure or regulations.

Customized living settings must have an Assisted Living license through the MN Department of Health and meet all of the requirements and standards of the Assisted Living licensure, [Minn. Stat. 144G](#) or meet an exemption under [Mn Statute 256S.20 Subdivision 1](#). Customized living services provide an individualized package of regularly scheduled health-related and supportive services provided to a person who resides in a qualified setting with an assisted living license.

Customized living service definitions that support the setting requirements

Customized living (CL) and 24-hour CL services include component services designed to meet the person's assessed needs and goals. Individualized CL services may include supervision, home care aide tasks (e.g., assistance with activities of daily living), home health aide tasks (e.g., delegated nursing tasks), home management tasks, meal preparation and service, socialization, assisting participants with arranging meetings and appointments, assisting with money management, assisting participants with scheduling medical and social services, and arranging for or providing transportation. If socialization is provided, it must be part of the service plan, related to established goals and outcomes and not diversional or recreational in nature.

For more details about the component services, including what is covered and distinctions between each see the following resource on the CBSM:

Link: [Customized living component service definitions and guide for computing time for rate-setting tools.](#)

Minnesota's Community Based Services Manual (CBSM) provides the following requirements for customized living services:

Link: [CBSM: Customized living \(including 24-hour customized living\)](#)

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>Interconnectedness between the facility and the setting in question, including administrative or financial interconnectedness, does not exist or is minimal.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under Mn Statute 144G.10, "Each assisted living facility must employ an assisted living director licensed or permitted by the Board of Executives for Long Term Services and Supports."</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under Mn Statute 325F.722, "The person primarily responsible for oversight and management of the exempt setting, as designated by the owner, must obtain at least 30 hours of continuing education every two years of employment as the manager in topics relevant to the operations of the setting and the needs of its residents. Continuing education earned to maintain a professional license, such as a nursing home administrator license, assisted living facility director license, nursing license, social worker license, or real estate license, can be used to complete this requirement."</p> <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per interview with the campus administrator, North Star Assisted Living is located on a continuum of care campus. The campus administrator has authority over the assisted living facility, skilled nursing facility and an independent senior housing building. The administrative staff is shared amongst these settings on the campus. The direct care staff are not shared. As required by Mn Statute 144G.10, North Star Assisted Living has a licensed assisted living director.</p>	Compliant

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>To the extent any facility staff are assigned occasionally or on a limited basis to support or back up the HCBS staff, the facility staff are cross-trained to meet the same qualifications as the HCBS staff.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with direct care staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of training policy and procedure(s). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under Mn Statute 144G.60, "All staff persons providing assisted living services must be trained and competent in the provision of services consistent with current practice standards appropriate to the resident's needs, and promote and be trained to support the assisted living bill of rights." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under Mn Statute 144A.44, Subdivision 1., "A client who receives home care services in the community or in an assisted living facility licensed under chapter 144G has these rights: (12) be served by people who are properly trained and competent to perform their duties;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per interview with the campus administrator and the director of nursing and other validation methods listed above, the skilled nursing facility staff on this campus does not provide services at this assisted living facility. All staff that work in North Star Assisted Living receive home and community based specific training in a manner consistent with the HCBS settings regulations. For example, training includes person-centered planning, Assisted Living Bill of Rights, Vulnerable Adult reporting, etc.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>Participants in the setting in question do not have to rely primarily on transportation or other services provided by the facility setting, to the exclusion of other options.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with direct care staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of transportation policy and procedure(s). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under Mn Statute 144G.41, “Upon request of the resident, the assisted living must provide direct or reasonable assistance with arranging for transportation to medical and social services appointments, shopping, and other recreation, and provide the name of or other identifying information about the persons responsible for providing this assistance.” <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under Mn Statute 256S.09, “Elderly waiver case management activities provided to or arranged for a participant include: (5) assisting the participant with gaining access to needed elderly waiver and other state plan services; (6) assisting the participant with gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services regardless of the funding source for the services to which access is gained;” <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, the residents who live at North Star Assisted Living use many different modes of transportation. The setting owns and operates their own multi-seat van and a wheelchair accessible bus. Tri-Valley, a local public transit option, transports residents within the local area. Residents are told about these options when they move in and whenever they request assistance with rides. Staff and residents also reported they receive transportation from family members and the church pastors also provide some transportation. The nursing staff are the contacts for assistance with transportation, as well as the staff at the front desk.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

The setting provides HCBS services in a space that is distinct from the space that institutional services are provided.

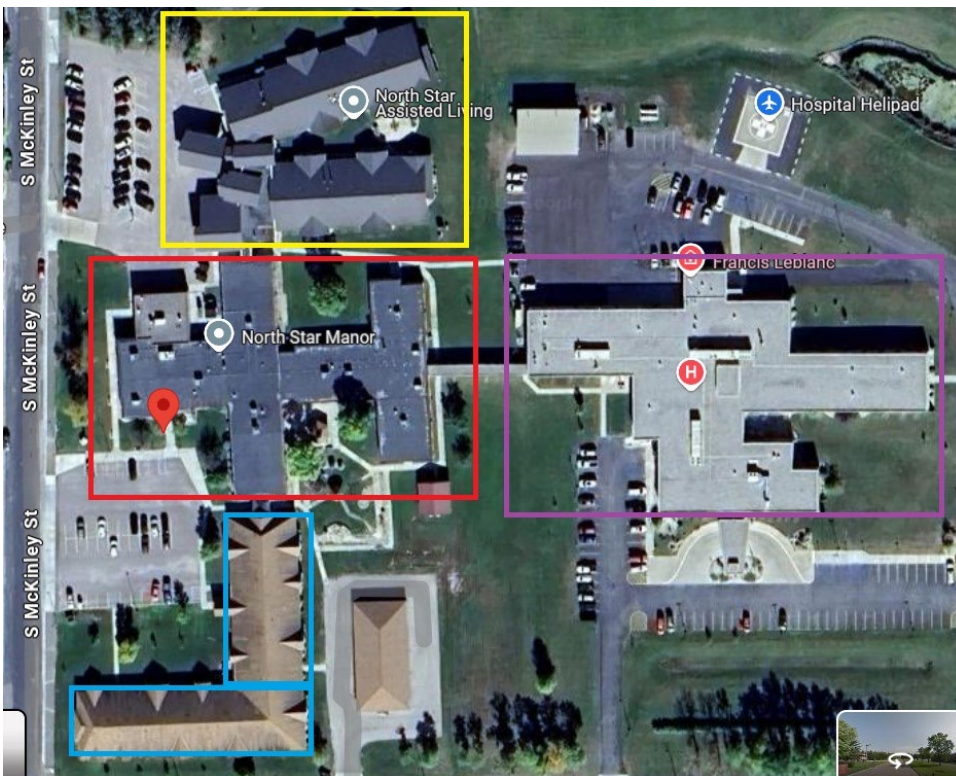
Compliant

Validation methods:


- ☒ Observation of the distinction of the separate spaces.
- ☒ Aerial photo and/or photos identifying the separation of settings.

Narrative:

North Star Assisted Living (outlined in yellow) provides customized living services in a space that is distinct from the space used by the nursing facility (outlined in red). North Star Assisted Living is connected to the skilled nursing facility via an enclosed hallway with double doors and signage. North Star Assisted Living has a dedicated parking lot. There is indoor and outdoor signage for the North Star Assisted Living building. Additionally, there is signage on both sides of the double doors indicating the direction to the skilled nursing facility and vice versa. The North Star Independent Senior Living building is outlined in blue. The North Valley Health Center is outlined in purple.



North Star Manor continuum of care campus

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
 <p><i>Double doors with signage connecting assisted living and skilled nursing facility</i></p>	

Prong 1 and Prong 2 settings

Meaningful distinction between the facility and HCBS setting

States must submit strong evidence that the setting presumed institutional has the characteristics of a HCBS setting and not an institutional setting.

HCBS characteristics

This section is a summary of the individual HCBS characteristics required in the HCBS rule. The findings for each characteristic are identified through the setting documentation, on-site observations and interviews.

HCBS Rule requirement

**Compliance
determination**

<p>The setting is selected by the individual from among a variety of setting options including non-disability specific settings.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MnCHOICES support plan requirements: In the “What I Want my Life to Look Like” section of the support plan, using person-centered principles, the case manager/care coordinator must describe the person’s choice about housing. The case manager/care coordinator must have a conversation with the person for each of the statements on the signature sheet to ensure they understand what they are agreeing to and have the necessary information to make an informed choice. The case manager/care coordinator selects yes or no for each statement. If the person answers ‘no’ the case manager/care coordinator must review the content again in another format or discuss further with the person.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health plan and Lead Agency Review support plan audits: As required under Mn Statute 256B.0911, Subd. 29, “The written support plan must include:(d) (2) the individual's options and choices to meet identified needs, including all available options for: (iii) living arrangements; (v) service provided in a non-disability-specific setting;”</p> <p>Narrative:</p> <p>As required under Mn Statute 256B.0911, Subd. 29, case managers are required to offer and document all available options for living arrangement in the person’s support plan, including non-disability specific options. However, because this is a new setting going through heightened scrutiny, only residents that are receiving customized living services funded by private pay or other non-waiver funding were interviewed.</p> <p>During resident interviews, one resident reported that this is the place she chose to live at and was not interested in looking at other settings. She is a former school teacher who previously lived in a nearby town. Her daughter lives in Warren, MN and she wanted to move to North Star Assisted Living to be close to her daughter. She also has children in the twin cities area but she does not desire to move to that area.</p> <p>Another resident reported during interviews that she also only wanted to live in this setting and did not want to look at other places to live. She recently was discharged from the hospital and the skilled nursing facility. She chose North Star Assisted Living because it is local and she wants to support the town. She also has family and friends here in Warren. When she is able to live on her own, she eventually plans to move back to her private home.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------

<p>The setting facilitates individual choice regarding services and supports, and who provides them.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure(s). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, Subd. 24., "Residents have the right to be informed by the assisted living facility, prior to executing an assisted living contract, that other public and private services may be available and that the resident has the right to purchase, contract for, or obtain services from a provider other than the assisted living facility." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 2., "(a) Every exempt setting must execute a written contract with a resident or the resident's representative and must operate in accordance with the terms of the contract. The resident or the resident's representative must be given a complete copy of the contract and all supporting documents and attachments and any changes whenever changes are made. (b) The contract must include at least the following elements in itself or through supporting documents or attachments: (12) a statement regarding the ability of a resident to receive services from providers with whom the exempt setting does not have an arrangement;" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144A.44 Subdivision 1. "(a) A client who receives home care services in the community or in an assisted living facility licensed under chapter 144G has these rights: (8) know that there may be other services available in the community, including other home care services and providers, and to know where to find information about these services; (9) choose freely among available providers and to change providers after services have begun, within the limits of health insurance, long-term care insurance, medical assistance, other health programs, or public programs;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation method's checked above, it has been determined that North Star Assisted Living is compliant with this requirement. The setting's "Right to Outside Service Provider" policy/procedure is compliant. This policy states the following procedure: "The facility will make every effort to assist residents in</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
--	------------------

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>obtaining services from any or all outside service providers, if requested by resident, for treatment services and therapies.”</p> <p>Administrative staff confirm that residents have the right to choose their providers, services and supports. This right is also listed in the Assisted Living Bill of Rights.</p> <p>One resident interviewed reported that went out in the community today to see the doctor of her choice. She stated that she also receives physical therapy and chose to receive that at the connected hospital so that she doesn’t have to go far for her appointments. She stated, “I know I can choose a different physical therapist. I just don’t want one.” This resident also reported that she has kept her primary doctor here at the hospital but she goes to Grand Forks, ND and Fosston, MN for spealist services for her sleep and for her hearing.</p>	

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>Each person at the setting has a written lease or residency agreement in place providing protections to address eviction processes and appeals.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of written lease or residency agreement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: This setting submitted a compliant Assisted Living lease/contract as required under MN Statute 144G.50 – 144G.57. MN Statute 144G.11 states, “Assisted Living facilities are subject to and must comply with Chapter 504B.” The lease/contract is required to be signed by the setting and the person receiving services or their representative. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: This setting submitted a compliant written lease/contract as required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 8.. “Each exempt setting must comply with chapter 504B, and must obtain and maintain all other licenses, permits, registrations, or other required governmental approvals. An exempt setting is not required to obtain a lodging license under chapter 157 and related rules.” <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement. Administrative staff confirmed during interview, that residents receive a copy of the contract for review prior to signing and/or moving into the setting. Residents interviewed reported that they did sign a contract when they moved in and are also notified when any changes are made to the contract. One resident interviewed stated her son is her power of attorney and “he takes care of all of that stuff.”</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

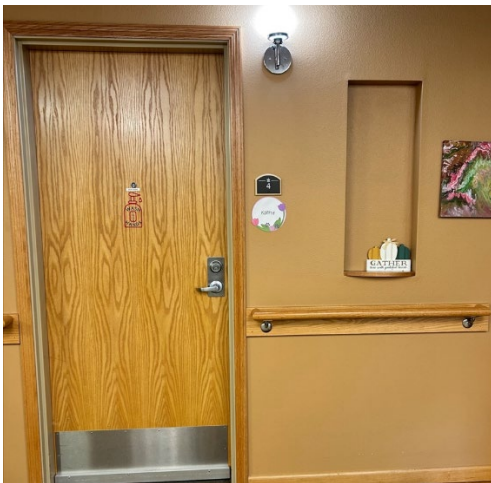
<p>Each person at the setting has privacy in his/her sleeping or living unit including a lockable door with only appropriate staff having keys to doors.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation of lockable unit doors during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, Subd. 13., "(a) Residents have the right to consideration of their privacy, individuality, and cultural identity as related to their social, religious, and psychological well-being. Staff must respect the privacy of a resident's space by knocking on the door and seeking consent before entering, except in an emergency or unless otherwise documented in the resident's service plan. (b) Residents have the right to have and use a lockable door to the resident's unit. The facility shall provide locks on the resident's unit. Only a staff member with a specific need to enter the unit shall have keys. This right may be restricted in certain circumstances if necessary for a resident's health and safety and documented in the resident's service plan." (Refer to Rights Modification section) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 2., "(c) The contract must include a statement regarding: (5) a resident's right to have and use a lockable door to the resident's unit. The exempt setting must provide the locks on the unit. Only a staff member with a specific need to enter the unit shall have keys, and advance notice must be given to the resident before entrance by the staff member, when possible." <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is compliant with this requirement. The setting's resident handbook is compliant as it states, "You will receive two sets of keys for your apartment and two entrance keys, 1 mail box key." Locks were observed on all apartment doors in the setting during the onsite assessment. . The administrator and director of nursing reported that only appropriate staff have keys to the units. They also reported that no clients require a modification to this right, so no Rights Modification plans will be required for current clients when and if they receive Elderly Waiver in the future.</p> <p>Residents interviewed said they can lock their door when they want privacy or are away. One resident stated that she locks her door all of the time, even when</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------

she goes to lunch. This resident also reported that she administers her own medication so she also has a key for her medication drawer which also has a locked med box inside the drawer. She has a key for the med box also.

Another resident interviewed confirmed she has a key for her apartment door also. She stated, "Yes, I have my key right here in my pocket all of the time."



Apartment door with lock



Apartment door with lock

HCBS Rule requirement

Compliance determination



Mailboxes with locks

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>The setting facilitates that a person, who shares a bedroom/unit, is with a roommate of their choice.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to choose a roommate if sharing a unit." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 2., "(c) The contract must include a statement regarding: (4) a resident's right to choose a roommate if sharing a unit;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, it is determined that North Star Assisted Living is compliant with this requirement. North Star Assisted Living's "Assisted Living Contract" is signed by the provider and the resident and is compliant with this requirement. The contract states, "Provider permits double occupancy in designated apartments. Provider does not require residents unknown to each other to share apartments. If Resident occupies an apartment in which two individuals can reside, Resident is free to choose Resident's roommate."</p> <p>Campus administrator and director of nursing reported residents in the setting do not share the apartments with others unless they choose to have their spouse live there.</p> <p>Residents that were interviewed also reported they are not required to share a unit. Resident interviews were conducted in resident apartments and it was observed the residents lived in their apartments alone.</p>	Compliant

<p>The setting provides people with the freedom to furnish and decorate their bedroom and living unit within the lease or residency agreement.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation of residents' units during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to furnish and decorate the resident's unit within the terms of the assisted living contract." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 2., "(c) The contract must include a statement regarding: (1) the ability of a resident to furnish and decorate the resident's unit within the terms of the lease;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, it is determined that North Star Assisted Living is compliant with this requirement. The setting's Assisted Living Contract states under "Resident Responsibilities: To furnish and decorate the Apartment as Resident desires without making any alterations or additions to, removing any fixtures from, or painting the premises unless Provider has provided Resident with its written consent, although Resident may use small nails to hang pictures on walls". Administration reported that people are allowed/encouraged to bring their personal decorations and furniture from home to decorate their units.</p> <p>Living units observed during the site visit were decorated according to the residents' tastes and preferences, including family pictures and memorabilia, crafts and hobby items. Personalized decorations were observed in the doorways of the apartments. Residents confirmed that decorations and furniture were their personal belongings and they were able to decorate the unit as desired.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------



Furniture and wall hanging in resident apartment




TV stand and arm chair in resident apartment



Bed in resident apartment



Bed in resident apartment

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<div data-bbox="204 306 631 875"></div> <p data-bbox="204 898 683 926"><i>TV stand, plant and wall decoration in apartment</i></p>	

<p>The setting provides people access to food at any time.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to access food at any time. This right may be restricted in certain circumstances if necessary for the resident's health and safety and if documented in the resident's service plan." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 2., "(c) The contract must include a statement regarding: (2) a resident's right to access food at any time;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement. The setting's Resident Handbook states, "We offer daily meal service and snacks. Should you need or prefer to have your meal at a time outside these hours, you may direct this request to staff. Your meal may be saved for you and reheated or an alternative option provided. Residents who elect not to participate in a meal plan may also choose to purchase meals individually as they would like them."</p> <p>Administrator and director of nursing confirmed during interviews that the setting provides menu choices, has snacks available, people can store and prepare food in own apartment etc. It was reported that the local grocery store also delivers groceries per resident request. They also reported that no clients require a modification to this right, so no Rights Modification plans will be required for current clients when and if they receive Elderly Waiver in the future.</p> <p>Residents confirmed during interview that they have access to food at any time. Menu, snacks, go out to eat, cook in own apartment etc. Observed snack table in community kitchen area with drink options and vending machines.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
--	------------------



Resident kitchen in apartment



Common dining space



Snack and drink station in common area

<p>The setting allows people to have visitors at any time.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation of people coming and going during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to meet with or receive visits at any time by the resident's family, guardian, conservator, health care agent, attorney, advocate, or religious or social work counselor, or any person of the resident's choosing. This right may be restricted in certain circumstances if necessary for the resident's health and safety and if documented in the resident's service plan." (See Rights Modification section): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 2., "(c) The contract must include a statement regarding: (3) a resident's right to choose the resident's visitors and times of visits;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement. The setting's Assisted Living Contract states, "Provider is pleased to welcome all guests. Resident is permitted to have guests in the Apartment and in the common areas of North Star Assisted Living at any time." and, "Provider offers a guest room for an additional fee. This guest room is available on a first come, first served basis."</p> <p>Administrator and director of nursing confirmed during interview that the setting does not restrict visiting times or who people can visit with. They also reported that no clients require a modification to this right, so no Rights Modification plans will be required for current clients when and if they receive Elderly Waiver in the future.</p> <p>Residents interviewed confirmed that their visitors come when they choose and are not limited or restricted to visiting hours. Residents can visit with their friends/family in privacy in their own units or in any shared space within the building. One resident stated they are given two keys for the apartment and the building front door so they can give one to a family member if they choose. Residents are also given the keypad code if they forget their key to the front door.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------

During the onsite assessment, observed visitors coming and going from the building and visiting with residents.

The setting also has rooms that can be reserved for parties and has a guest room if a visitor wants to spend the night or longer.



Keypad near front entrance door



Visiting area for residents

HCBS Rule requirement

Compliance determination



Outdoor visiting area for residents



Family meeting room for residents

<p>The setting provides opportunities for people to volunteer or seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Health plan and Lead Agency Review support plan audits: As required under Mn Statute 256B.0911, Subd. 29, "The written support plan must include:(d) (2) the individual's options and choices to meet identified needs, including all available options for: (ii) employment services, settings, and providers."</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to engage in community life and in activities of their choice. This includes the right to participate in commercial, religious, social, community, and political activities without interference and at their discretion if the activities do not infringe on the rights of other residents."</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 256B.0911 Subd. 29., "(d) The written support plan must include: (2) the individual's options and choices to meet identified needs, including all available options for: (ii) employment services, settings, and providers;"</p> <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement. The setting's Resident Handbook states, "North Star Assisted Living supports our residents' rights to work or volunteer if you desire and will make efforts to accommodate your schedule when developing your plan of care." and, "Our volunteers inspire the residents, their families, staff and others through the simple act of sharing their gifts of time and talent. You will have many opportunities to volunteer your time and talent as well."</p> <p>Administrator and director of nursing reported during interview that there are a few residents who currently choose to volunteer and/or work. One resident drives to his family farm every day to help his sons who now own and manage the farm. Another resident volunteers as a ballot counter during elections held in town.</p> <p>Residents interviewed reported that they are aware that they can volunteer/work if they choose to do so. However the residents interviewed</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------


HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
reported they choose not to work/volunteer at this time. One resident stated, "I'm 82 years old, I need my afternoon nap now."	

<p>The setting is physically accessible to the individual.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.11 "Assisted living facilities:(1) are subject to and must comply with chapter 504B;" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 8., "Each exempt setting must comply with chapter 504B, and must obtain and maintain all other licenses, permits, registrations, or other required governmental approvals. An exempt setting is not required to obtain a lodging license under chapter 157 and related rules." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 363A.10, Subdivision 1. "For purposes of section 363A.09, discrimination includes: (1) a refusal to permit, at the expense of the disabled person, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to be occupied by the disabled person if modifications may be necessary to afford the disabled person full enjoyment of the premises; a landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so, condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the modification, excluding reasonable wear and tear; (2) a refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services, when accommodations may be necessary to afford a disabled person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling." <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement The setting's handbook states, "North Star Assisted Living is committed to maintaining our building to be readily accessible for residents with disabilities. This includes accessible entrances, hallways, bathrooms, common areas, and apartment units. Residents who would like to submit and accommodation request may contact the Assisted Living Manager or Administrator at their contact information listed at the beginning of this handbook. All Assisted Living staff are also trained on where to direct these requests.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------

The administrator and the director of nursing reported the setting is fully accessible to the residents. Accommodations such as grab bars, shower chairs, wheelchair accessible kitchens/bathrooms are available to residents. Residents report they are able to use and access all areas of their unit and shared spaces within the building. Observations made of grab bars, shower chairs, wheelchairs, walkers and other accessibility aides in the resident apartments and throughout the building.



Shower chair, grab bar and hand held shower head

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<div data-bbox="203 310 735 1014"></div> <p data-bbox="203 1035 516 1062"><i>Grab bars by resident commode</i></p>	

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>Any modification of the rights specified in HCBS rule under 441.301(c)(4)(vi)(A) through (D) must be supported by a specific assessed need and documented in the person-centered plan/ HCBS Rights Modification Support Plan Attachment.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input type="checkbox"/> Review of person's support plan, if a rights modification is in place. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A. No residents at this setting, enrolled in Elderly Waiver, have a need for a Rights Modification at this time. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under Mn Statute 144G.911, "The resident's rights in section 144G.91, subdivisions 12, 13, and 18, may be restricted for an individual resident only if determined necessary for health and safety reasons identified by the facility through an initial assessment or reassessment under section 144G.70, subdivision 2, and documented in the written service plan under section 144G.70, subdivision 4. Any restrictions of those rights for people served under chapter 256S and section 256B.49 must be documented by the case manager in the resident's support plan, as defined in sections 256B.49, subdivision 15, and 256S.10." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 325F.722 Subd. 2. "(d) A restriction of a resident's rights under this subdivision is allowed only if determined necessary for health and safety reasons identified by a home care provider's registered nurse in an initial assessment or reassessment, as defined under section 144A.4791, subdivision 8, and documented in the written service plan under section 144A.4791, subdivision 9. Any restrictions of those rights for people served under section 256B.49 and chapter 256S must be documented in the resident's support plan, as defined under sections 256B.49, subdivision 15, and 256S.10." <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Administrator and director of nursing reported during interviews that no clients require a modification to this right, so no Rights Modification plans will be required for current clients when and if they receive Elderly Waiver in the future.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

<p>The setting provides people opportunities to access and engage in community life to the same degree as individuals not receiving Medicaid.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure, activity calendar(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation of residents' units during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to engage in community life and in activities of their choice. This includes the right to participate in commercial, religious, social, community, and political activities without interference and at their discretion if the activities do not infringe on the rights of other residents." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 256S.10 Subd. 3, "Each participant's support plan must: (1) include the participant's need for service and identify service needs that will be or that are met by the participant's relatives, friends, and others, as well as community services used by the general public; (2) include the use of volunteers, religious organizations, social clubs, and civic and service organizations to support the participant in the community;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods listed above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement.</p> <p>The administrator and director of nursing report transportation options are available. The setting owns and operates their own multi-seat van and a wheelchair accessible bus. Tri-Valley, a local public transit option, transports residents within the local area. Residents are told about these options when they move in and whenever they request assistance with rides. Staff and residents also reported they receive transportation from family members and the church pastors also provide some transportation. For example, the setting facilitates individual resident trips for local school graduations and church events.</p> <p>Community based activities are listed per month and placed on a local bulletin board and also passed out to each resident. Residents sign up on a sheet if they want to go on each trip. The current month's trips are listed in the photo of the handout below:</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------

May 2025 ALF Community Outings!!

Please sign up for all outings

- **May 6th Bone Builders Warren Senior Center 10:30-11:30**
- **May 7th Open House at DHI Sweet Street Load at 9:00am**
- **May 7th SAC Spring Musical "Annie" 7:00 pm**
- **May 13th Bone Builders Warren Senior Center 10:30-11:30**
- **May 14th Grand Forks: Unforgettable Concert & stop at DHI Sweet Street after (Leave at 8:45)**
- **May 16th Viking Diner for lunch**
- **May 27th Bone Builders Warren Senior Center 10:30-11:30**
- **May 28th Senior Meals for supper (There will be musical entertainment!!)**



May list of community based activities

HCBS Rule requirement

Compliance determination

April 2025 Community outings

Please sign up for any events you are interested in attending!

April 2nd~ Next Dance with Cathy Erickson 2:00-4:00 pm

April 9th~ Outing to Grand Forks Unforgettable's Choir concert and DHI Sweet Street (bring your own money for the treats) Load at 10:00 am

April 13th~ Palm Sunday Community Cantata 6:45 pm (sign up early, space is limited!!)

April 16th~ Outing to senior meals 11:30am

April 23rd~ Outing to senior meals 11:30am and WAO school Musical (Marry Poppins) 2:00 pm


April 26th~ Second chance WAO School Musical (Mary Poppins) 2:00pm

April 30th~ Outing to senior meals 11:30 am

April community based activities

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>The setting supports the person’s control of personal resources to the same degree as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting’s policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to control personal resources." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144A.479 Subd. 5., "(b) A home care provider or staff may not borrow a client's funds or personal or real property, nor in any way convert a client's property to the home care provider's or staff's possession." <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods check above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement. This setting does not provide money management for residents. The Resident Handbook states, "North Star Assisted Living does not provide money management services for people receiving services. If they need assistance with managing your personal funds, tell them to contact the facility social worker so that they can assist with locating a financial worker."</p> <p>The administrator reported people have access to their own personal bank accounts, credit cards, cash and can access their funds at any time. Residents interviewed reported they have access to their money, bank accounts, credit cards, cash at any time. One resident reported her son manages her money for her and pays her bills per her choice.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

<p>The setting ensures people's right to privacy.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirements: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to consideration of their privacy, individuality, and cultural identity as related to their social, religious, and psychological well-being. Staff must respect the privacy of a resident's space by knocking on the door and seeking consent before entering, except in an emergency or unless otherwise documented in the resident's service plan." "Residents have the right to respect and privacy regarding the resident's service plan. Case discussion, consultation, examination, and treatment are confidential and must be conducted discreetly. Privacy must be respected during toileting, bathing, and other activities of personal hygiene, except as needed for resident safety or assistance." "Residents have the right to communicate privately with persons of their choice." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirements: As required under MN Statute 144A.44 Subdivision 1., "(a) A client who receives home care services in the community or in an assisted living facility licensed under chapter 144G has these rights: (10) have personal, financial, and medical information kept private, and to be advised of the provider's policies and procedures regarding disclosure of such information;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods check above, North Star Assisted Living is determined compliant with this requirement. The Resident Handbook includes, "We comply with Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules to ensure the privacy and security of your health information. Any discussion about your medical diagnosis or treatment should be in private. Your health records should be available only to those directly involved in your care, except as otherwise allowed by law."</p> <p>Administrator and director of nursing report the setting ensures residents' privacy by direct care staff providing personal cares in residents apartment or in private areas, not sharing private information about residents in hallways, etc.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
--	------------------

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p data-bbox="203 310 1242 388">Staff training checklist includes staff training on the following topic, “Awareness of confidentiality and privacy.”</p> <p data-bbox="203 415 1255 531">Residents interviewed reported they feel their privacy is protected. Staff knock on their unit door prior to entering, only talk about private information in private spaces etc.</p>  <p data-bbox="203 1123 678 1150"><i>Spa bathtub in private bathroom for resident use</i></p>	

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>The setting ensures people’s dignity and respect.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting’s policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to be treated with courtesy and respect, and to have the resident's property treated with respect." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144A.44 Subdivision 1, "(a) A client who receives home care services in the community or in an assisted living facility licensed under chapter 144G has these rights: (13) be treated with courtesy and respect, and to have the client's property treated with respect;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement. Administrator and director of nursing reported during interviews that staff are trained regarding how to treat residents with dignity and respect.</p> <p>North Star Assisted Living staff training checklist includes training on the following topic: "Communication skills that include preserving the dignity for the resident and showing respect for the resident and the resident’s preference, cultural background, and family."</p> <p>Residents interviewed reported they feel they are respected. Observed staff caring for residents in a kind and respectful manner, knocking on their doors and asking for permission to enter, allowing resident to finish visiting with visitor before offering assistance to a special event at the setting.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

HCBS Rule requirement	Compliance determination
<p>The setting ensures people’s freedom from coercion and restraint.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting’s policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under Mn Statute 144G.42,” The assisted living facility must comply with the requirements for the reporting of maltreatment of vulnerable adults in section 626.557. The facility must establish and implement a written procedure to ensure that all cases of suspected maltreatment are reported. And, Mn Statue 144G.63, “proper orientation and annual training is given to staff on the Vulnerable Adults Act, as well as the Assisted Living Bill of Rights and staff responsibilities related to ensuring the exercise and protection of those rights.” <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under Mn Statute 325F.722 Subd. 7., “Residents must be free from any physical or chemical restraints imposed for purposes of discipline or convenience.” <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement. Per setting policy and Elderly Waiver requirements, no restraints are used and coercion is prohibited. There is a key pad located at the front entrance door of the building. All resident receive the key pad code and two keys to the front door and their apartment doors.</p>	<p>Compliant</p>

<p>The setting optimizes individual initiative, autonomy, and independence in making life choices, including daily schedule and with whom to interact.</p> <p>Validation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with administrative staff. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview(s) with residents. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Review of setting's policy and procedure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation made during on-site visit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144G.91, "Residents have the right to individual autonomy, initiative, and independence in making life choices, including establishing a daily schedule and choosing with whom to interact." <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State license requirement: As required under MN Statute 144A.44 Subdivision 1., "(a) A client who receives home care services in the community or in an assisted living facility licensed under chapter 144G has these rights: (2) receive care and services according to a suitable and up-to-date plan, and subject to accepted health care, medical or nursing standards and person-centered care, to take an active part in developing, modifying, and evaluating the plan and services;" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State statutory requirement: As required under MN Statute 256S.10 Subd. 3., "Each participant's support plan must: (4) identify the participant's preferences for services as stated by the participant or the participant's legal guardian or conservator; (7) identify specific services and the amount, frequency, duration, and cost of the services to be provided to the participant based on assessed needs, preferences, and available resources;" <p>Narrative:</p> <p>Per the validation methods checked above, North Star Assisted Living is determined to be compliant with this requirement.</p> <p>This requirement was confirmed by the administrator and the director of nursing during interviews that residents are free to make their own life choices and choose who they want to spend their time with.</p> <p>The Resident Handbook states, "We offer the freedom to live as active a lifestyle as desired. Within our senior community you can enjoy scheduled group outings, entertainment and activities, worship opportunities, wellness programs, and more. Should you have certain interests or hobbies not included, please share these with the Activity Director. Refer to the monthly calendar for a complete</p>	<p>Compliant</p>
---	------------------

HCBS Rule requirement

Compliance determination

listing of recreational opportunities. You are also invited to set up social events with other residents, family members and guests. Private and public areas are available for your use and may be reserved for private gatherings. Contact the Management for availability.”

One resident interviewed reported that she gets up and goes to be anytime she wants to. She likes to stay up late and says, “everyone else goes to bed early around here.” Residents reported that they choose when to take showers and where they want to eat.



Activity room and chapel

Public comment summary

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) did not receive public comments for this setting.

DHS sought public comment from 8 a.m. on May 23, 2025, to 4 p.m. on June 23, 2025.

We sought public comments using the following methods:

- Evidentiary packages posted online on the [Home and Community Based Services Rule transition plan - Requirements for new HCBS settings](#) page
- Evidentiary packages specific to each setting posted in a common area of the setting
- Notice of public comment period via [May 23, 2025, eList announcement](#)
- Notification to providers via email
- Notification to managed care organizations and Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) via eList announcement
- Notification to DHS Office of Ombudsman for Long-term Care via eList announcement.

Minnesota's recommendation

Date of recommendation: 6/24/2025
Minnesota supports that this setting overcomes the institutional presumption and meets the requirements of a home and community-based setting. Provider is required to maintain on-going compliance with all HCBS requirements.