

Paula Rader attended undergraduate studies at Hendrix College in Conway, AR and obtained an M.Ed. in Special Education, with an emphasis in Supported Employment from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Paula worked at Youth Home, Goodwill Industries, and Independent Case Management, Inc. prior to beginning work at United Cerebral Palsy of Arkansas, Inc. in 1992. She began as an ACS Waiver Supervisor and in 1993, she took on the role of the Project STAR Adoption Grant Manager. This role saw Paula directing all grant activities, specifically focusing on recruiting parents for children with special needs and providing specialized training for service providers about the special issues adopted children face in their daily lives.

She next moved into the role of Adult Habilitation Director operating both the Little Rock and North Little Rock locations. She became Compliance/Program Administrator in 2002 for UCP of Arkansas, transitioning to Chief Program Officer in 2014. After 24 years with UCP of Arkansas, Paula assumed her role as the organization's 3rd Chief Executive Officer in July 2016.