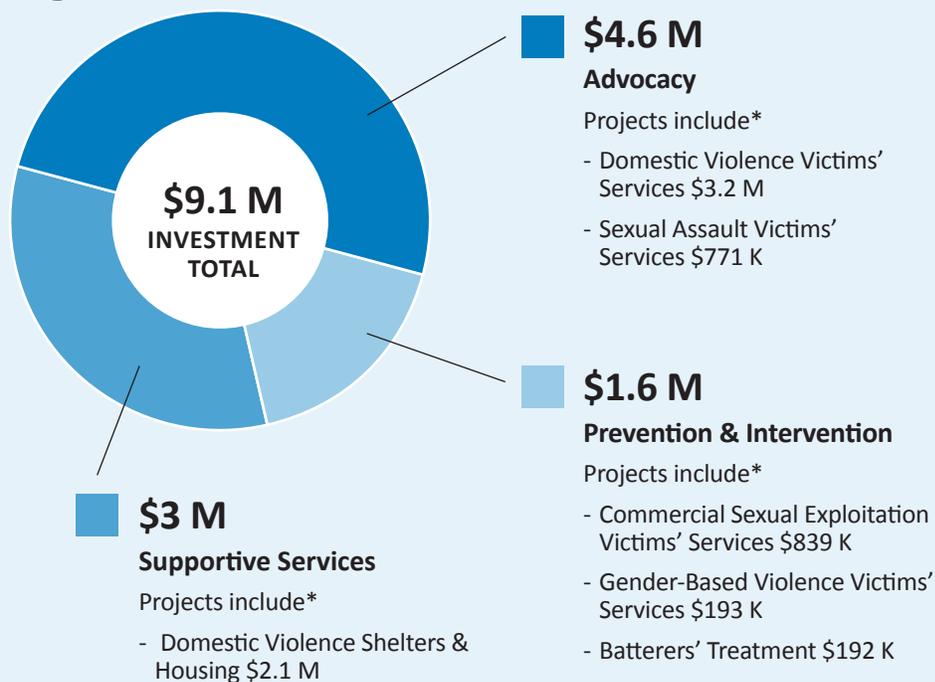


# Responding to Gender-Based Violence



HSD's Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (MODVSA) serves as a funder, convener, partner, and thought leader in the field of gender-based violence. In 2018, MODVSA continued its work to evaluate the effectiveness of domestic violence treatment programs and conducted a \$6 million funding process for survivor services. MODVSA worked with City Council to pass a resolution in support of increased engagement with immigrant and refugee communities to respond to anti-immigrant initiatives and policies at the federal level and increasing fears that discourage communities from coming forward to report domestic violence, sexual assault, and other crimes. The team also planned a Denim Day event and successfully broadened support for Purple Thursday by encouraging staff throughout the City to wear purple in October. Even the Seattle Great Wheel wore purple in support.

## 2018 Budget



*\*Projects mentioned do not reflect all services funded for this impact area.*

## City of Seattle Denim Day

On April 25, 2018, MODVSA coordinated the first-ever City of Seattle Denim Day Event attended by more than 60 City of Seattle employees and community partners. The campaign was originally catalyzed by an Italian Supreme Court ruling that overturned a rape conviction because the justices felt that the victim must have helped her rapist remove her tight jeans, thereby implying consent.

The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against erroneous and destructive attitudes about sexual assault.




**Advocacy Services**  
4,989 survivors received domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or commercial sexual exploitation advocacy services

## Advocacy & Victims' Services

Mobile, flexible domestic violence and sexual assault advocacy is a national best practice that focuses on helping survivors and their children rapidly access new housing or retain current housing to maintain safety and stability. Mobile Advocacy provides assistance within survivors' chosen communities and uses a trauma-informed lens to respond to survivors' and children's needs.

MODVSA awarded \$6,433,578 to increase funding for 24 existing programs and added capacity for community services with 12 new programs as part of its Gender-Based Violence Victim Services RFP funding process for contracts beginning in 2019. Funded proposals include Mobile Advocacy, Shelter, and Therapeutic Services.

## Pilot Project

In June, the Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) began its "soft launch." DVIP is a collaborative project aimed at improving outcomes for domestic violence batterers charged with a domestic violence misdemeanor by the Seattle Municipal Court. It is modeled after Colorado's "Differentiated Domestic Violence Offender Treatment," which aims to address offender risks, needs, and responsivity.

