



**Economic  
Development Fund**  
Annual Report



April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022

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## Message from Premier Pillai

Since it was introduced in March of 2021, the Economic Development Fund has provided Yukon businesses with the critical support needed to expand, improve their operations or provide new services to their respective communities. This amalgamation of the Regional Economic Development Fund,

Strategic Industries Development Fund and Enterprise Trade Fund, has made capital for projects more accessible than ever and businesses have seized these new opportunities.

This report demonstrates how the fund is improving our territory's services and our economy. Featured projects in this report include funding for HPD General Contracting to purchase brushing equipment for seasonal highway clearing, and supporting Yukon Expedition Sleds to acquire a larger manufacturing space. Funding was also provided to Kryotek Arctic Innovation Inc. to test and promote an artificial intelligence system that detects wildfires. These are only a few examples of how the fund has been utilized this year.

These projects are benefiting communities across the territory and I am glad our government can support them. The fund has been heavily subscribed. In the 2021–2022 fiscal year, a total of \$1,479,476 was awarded to 54 projects. Our territory's economy continues to expand and the Government of Yukon is always exploring new opportunities to support this growth. My hope is that Yukon entrepreneurs continue to explore new possibilities to grow their operations and can benefit from the fund for years to come.

Ranj Pillai  
Premier and Minister of Economic Development  
Government of Yukon



# General program information

The Economic Development Fund supports projects and initiatives that provide long-term, sustainable economic benefits to Yukon communities. It funds projects that:

- » Support business innovation, sustainability and planning by identifying, pursuing and facilitating the development of business, industry, projects and economic infrastructure while maximizing secondary benefits, attracting investment and balancing socioeconomic interests;
- » Encourage diversification of the economy by providing support that opens up new markets or significantly expands existing markets, and in particular, export markets; and
- » Increase business competitiveness by supporting innovation through capital investment and the facilitation of organizational capacity development.

## Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- » Businesses which meet three of the following conditions:
  - Has an office with a physical address in Yukon;
  - Is subject to the *Yukon Income Tax Act*;
  - Is registered under the *Business Corporations Act* and the *Partnership and Business Name Act*, where applicable; or
  - Has a valid municipal business license, where applicable.
- » Yukon First Nation governments;
- » Yukon First Nation development entities (whether structured as a corporation, partnership, joint venture or a trust);
- » Yukon municipal governments; and
- » Community societies or associations that:
  - Are registered under the *Yukon Societies Act* and are in good standing;
  - Are based in one or more Yukon communities; and
  - Can demonstrate clear interest in seeking to improve Yukon's economic development.
- » Not-for-profit corporations incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*.

## Funding levels and intakes

The Economic Development Fund is divided into three tiers:

- » Tier 1: Applications of \$30,000 or less;
- » Tier 2: Applications of \$30,001 to \$100,000; and
- » Tier 3: Applications of \$100,001 to \$500,000 or more.

Deadlines:

- » Tier 1: Rolling intake; applications accepted year-round
- » Tier 2: April 15 and September 15
- » Tier 3: January 15

## Eligible projects and activities

Eligible projects and activities fall into three categories:

- » **Business Innovation**
- » **Sustainability; and**
- » **Planning**

Eligible projects or activities include:

- » Activities that support strategic business and industry development;
- » Research to identify and address barriers to industry and sector development;
- » Building sustainability measures into business practices and operations;
- » Facilitating strategic economic infrastructure for public access;
- » Regional economic planning;
- » Projects or activities in the preliminary stage may be eligible for support for:
  - Research to identify emerging opportunities;
  - Concept development and scope of a project;
  - Preliminary feasibility;
  - Business plans, sustainability and feasibility studies;
  - Development plans;
  - Economic impact analyses; or
  - Business scanning to determine/analyze potential secondary benefit.
- » Projects or activities in the implementation stage may be eligible for:
  - Implementation support; or
  - Post-project analysis and support.

## Market Support and Diversification

Eligible projects or activities include:

- » Participation in trade and investment missions, business conventions, marketing events and exchanges;
- » Organization and promotion of conferences, trade fairs, and other networking or marketing events;
- » Preparation for incoming trade missions and familiarization tours;
- » Branding, web enhancements and e-commerce;
- » Marketing plans and promotional materials; or
- » Investment attraction.

## Capacity and Capital Development

Eligible projects or activities include:

- » Construction costs related to the establishment or expansion of an entity in order to grow its market or increase the footprint and/or output.
- » Leasehold improvements where a minimum five-year lease agreement is in place;
- » Equipment purchase or lease where the equipment supports:
  - the development or distribution of goods or services for a market in Yukon that is not already supplied with those goods or services by an established eligible business;
  - the export of goods or services from Yukon; or
  - replacing imports with goods or services from Yukon.
- » Product development to improve competitiveness and meet market demand;
- » Internship and mentoring opportunities;
- » Activities related to business or organizational capacity development such as needs assessments and training plans;
- » corporate organizational capacity training for corporate business enterprises and economic development organizations; or
- » Business-related professional development workshops and other learning forums on business topics.





## Economic Development Fund testimonials

The following four stories depict some of the projects that the Economic Development Fund supported during the 2021–2022 fiscal year.



## Kryotek: Home and Property Wildfire Detection System

Kryotek Arctic Innovation Inc. (Kryotek) received \$100,000 through the Economic Development Fund to field test and promote an artificial intelligence system that detects wildfire using any camera and alerts property owners of danger. Partnerships were created with Yukon Wildlands Fire Management, Forest Technology Systems Inc., Fire North Inc. and Yukon First Nations Wildfire to complete the testing.

Encouraging innovative product creation in Yukon, not only encourages economic growth and establishes Yukon as an innovative hub, but can directly affect the lives of Yukoners. With support from the Economic Development Fund, Kryotek will be able to commercialize software that can turn any camera into an early warning wildfire detection system, helping to reduce fires in the territory and save many properties.







## Yukon First Nation Culture and Tourism Association: Fashion Forward 2022

As the demand for Indigenous fashion and design grows, counterfeits of Yukon Indigenous designs have become more prevalent in the marketplace. This takes valuable market opportunities from Yukon First Nations designers who may not have access to the same tools, guidance nor marketing expertise. The Yukon First Nation Culture and Tourism Association (YFNCT) seeks to aid designers by launching them into the mainstream market through the Fashion Forward Program.

“Thanks to the contribution of the Economic Development Fund, the Fashion Forward project helped to increase local, national and international awareness of professional Yukon Indigenous fashion designers. Through attending IFWTO and participating in the Adäka fashion show, designers grew their understanding and awareness of the industry, including manufacturing, working with suppliers, sourcing materials, production, marketing and more. The Fashion Forward project resulted in positive community economic impacts by increasing the volume, marketability and sales of Yukon Indigenous fashion products within the marketplace. It created community awareness and education around the value and importance of supporting these industries through partnerships, community events, and media exposure.”

Katie Johnson, Interim Executive Director,  
Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism  
Association

YFNCT received \$49,615 from the Economic Development Fund to support the Fashion Forward Program. The program will co-ordinate the 2022 Dà Ze Tsàn Fashion show and select and mentor two designers to attend the Indigenous Fashion Arts Festival (previously known as Indigenous Fashion Week Toronto).

With support from the Economic Development Fund, YFNCT will increase awareness of Yukon First Nations fashion designers on a local and national level. It will increase the economic commercial potential for Yukon First Nations artists by providing the tools and marketplace for Yukon fashions. Moreover, YFNCT's Fashion Forward program seeks to increase skilled and diverse labor in the territory.



## **Yukon Expedition Sleds: Production Facility Expansion**

Yukon Expedition Sleds (YES) proudly innovates, manufactures and sells some of the most dependable and extreme weather recreation products in the world. YES has been designing and building Extreme Duty Arctic Proven toboggans in Whitehorse for over six years. YES has created a new way of forming Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene (UHMW), that makes production of products much faster and more profitable. UHMW is one of the most durable cold weather products on earth and an excellent material for innovation for the North.

Throughout its development, YES has worked closely with Yukon University to create a way to cold form this material into the most dependable toboggans on earth. For that reason, professionals have identified Yukon Expedition Sleds as one of the best Extreme Duty Arctic Freight Toboggans across North America.

Yukon Expedition Sleds had outgrown its current manufacturing space, affecting its ability to increase production and keep up with market demand. The overall need was for a larger space, an expanded production line and a diverse Yukon team. Yukon Expedition Sleds (YES) purchased a 1/2 acre of commercially zoned property from Kwanlin Dün First Nation in the Marwell Industrial Area for the construction of a strategically designed, energy efficient manufacturing facility.

With support from the Economic Development Fund, YES's new manufacturing facility was designed for growth, expansion, and innovation to diversify their unique product line and promote "Proudly made in Yukon" products.

## **HPD General Contracting: Purchase of Roadside Brushing Equipment**

The Faro/Ross River Region had a growing need for brushing services which were unavailable locally to the standard various companies require. HPD General Contracting (HPD) had supplied these services to the best of their ability but to effectively reduce outsourcing to exterior contractors they required specialized roadside brushing equipment.

Through the Economic Development Fund, HPD received \$20,000 to purchase a medium-sized Kubota excavator with a specialized brushing attachment. This equipment allows the company to provide seasonal road clearing, highway clearing, flood mitigation brushing and infrastructure corridor clearing for various industries such as mines, governments and telecommunications.

The Economic Development Funding will allow HPD to provide employment to local communities. The acquisition of the roadside brushing equipment will generate economic benefits not only for the business, but also for the region as a whole through additional contracts and potential clients.

# Economic Development Fund approvals 2021–2022

Community	Organization	Project title	Amount approved
Beaver Creek	Copper Niisüü	Skills Workshop	\$3,713
Burwash Landing	Van Lieshout Music Services	Spring Tour 2022 - BC & AB	\$2,015
	Kluane Development Corporation	Creating Economic Resilience	\$100,000
Carcross	Government of Carcross/ Tagish First Nation	Development of the Landfolio Land Management Software	\$33,162
Carmacks	Carmacks Development Corporation	An Assessment of Property Assets	\$25,875
Dawson	Little Critters Daycare	Little Critters Daycare Renovation	\$10,187
	ORO Enterprises Ltd.	New ERA North Fork Hydro Permitting, Licensing & Detail Design Work	\$184,369
Faro	VanGorda Enterprises Ltd.	VanGorda Enterprises C-Store Relocation & Expansion	\$103,426
Haines Junction	Shakat Tun Wilderness Camp	Enhance and develop a suite of options for land based retreats and healing camps	\$7,500
Mayo	Yukon Soaps Company	Comprehensive Marketing Plan for the Yukon Soaps Company	\$8,250

Community	Organization	Project title	Amount approved
<b>Old Crow</b>	The Lucky Ones	Marketing Tools for Album Release	\$7,910
<b>Ross River</b>	HPD General Contracting	Purchase of Roadside Brushing Equipment	\$20,000
<b>Tagish</b>	Upstream Events Inc.	Marketing Plan	\$13,510
<b>Whitehorse</b>	44973 Yukon Inc. O/A North End Gallery	Digital Marketing and Content Creation to Support the Export of Yukon Artwork	\$41,413
	536228 Yukon Inc. O/A Greg McHale's Wild Yukon	Greg McHale's Wild Yukon 2022 Trade Show Attendance	\$7,608
	8473692 Canada Inc. O/A Ice	Feasibility Study	\$1,020
	Alpine Aviation Yukon Ltd.	Pacer	\$4,716
	Alpine Aviation Yukon Ltd.	Cessna Door	\$14,028
	Appendo Learning Systems	Continued Growth of Appendo	\$75,000
	Aroma Borealis Herb Shop Inc.	Aroma - Export Market Expansion	\$46,342
	Boreal Compost Enterprises	Manufacturing Equipment Upgrades	\$27,500
	Buckaroo Music	Australia Tour 2022	\$6,938
	Career Industries Ltd.	Bridges Catering Marketing	\$8063
	Chu Níkwän Limited Partnership	Environmental Assessment	\$30,000
	Discovelo Inc.	Discovelo: Project Development for Market Expansion	\$27,926

Community	Organization	Project title	Amount approved
	Drone North	Integrating Multi-sensor UAV and AI-based Image Analysis to Improve Mine Reclamation	\$37,869
	Firebean Coffee Roasters	Firebean Retail & Production Marketing Development	\$21,188
	Hootalinqua Motion Pictures	Feature Film Marketing - Polaris	\$22,980
	Kryotek Arctic Innovation Inc.	Home and Property Wildfire detection system	\$100,000
	Landed Bakehouse	Leasehold Improvements	\$100,000
	Logan Dental Solutions	Dental 3D Printing Machinery	\$15,979
	Lunar Lixirs	Yukon Hollistic Health Fair	\$1,561
	Major Funk Music	Breakout West Showcase Performance and Conference	\$2,325
	Muktuk Adventures Ltd.	Promotional Material for Markets and Market Expansion	\$8,550
	Northern Tails Travel Services Inc.	Marketing Short Movie Clips	\$3,062
	O'Donovan Music Productions	Business Development Fall 2021	\$13,205
	Outpost 31 Media	Creative Industries Internship Program	\$53,350
	Paris Pick Music	Winter Showcase Tour	\$2,946
	Proskida Inc.	Scaling Protern.io's Sales	\$30,000
	Rab Energy Group Inc. O/A Northern Windows	Northern Manufacturing Operations Optimization Project	\$17,550
	Raven Inn Whitehorse	Technological Advancement Services and Product Development	\$19,012



Community	Organization	Project title	Amount approved
	Shot in the Dark Productions	Not About Me Distribution Platform	\$21,450
	SkiClaws	SkiClaws Commercialization and Product Launch	\$7,500
	Speed Control	Showcase at Breakout West	\$4,763
	Takhini River Ranch	Brand Building and Brand Implementation to Raise Ranch Presence and Professionalism	\$4,560
	Takhini River Ranch	Delivery Van Addition	\$18,730
	Yukon 3D Solutions	Accessible 3D Manufacturing 2	\$2,243
	Yukon Gardens	Updating Biomass Transferring Process to Storage Facility	\$8,250
	Yukon Organics	Yukon Organics Community Engagement/Market Entry	\$12,000
	Emma Barr Fine Art & Design	Vancouver International Art Fair	\$12,563
	Yukon Arts Centre Foundation	Participation of Yukon Prize Art and Artists at the Art Vancouver	\$30,000
Community	Organization	Project Title	Amount Approved
Yukon Wide	836971 Yukon Inc. O/A Greenwood Engineering Solutions	Increasing Local Capacity to Collect Data and Improve Sanitary and Storm Sewer Infrastructure Condition.	\$45,731
	Tagia Equine Therapy	Theraplate Acquisition	\$2,025
	Yukon First Nations Culture and Tourism Association	Fashion Forward 2022	\$49,615

All approved projects are reflected in the table above, whether or not the project proceeds. Recipients have the ability to decline or return funding.

# Funding statistics

The following section provides a detailed breakdown of how the Economic Development Fund money was spent over the 2021–2022 fiscal year.

## Number of applications received compared to applications approved

For the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, the Economic Development Fund program received 115 applications. As outlined in the chart below, 27 applications were withdrawn which left 88 to be processed. Of these 88 applications, 54 were approved and 34 were denied. This represents an approval rate of 61 per cent.

Figure 1: Application approval rates by tier

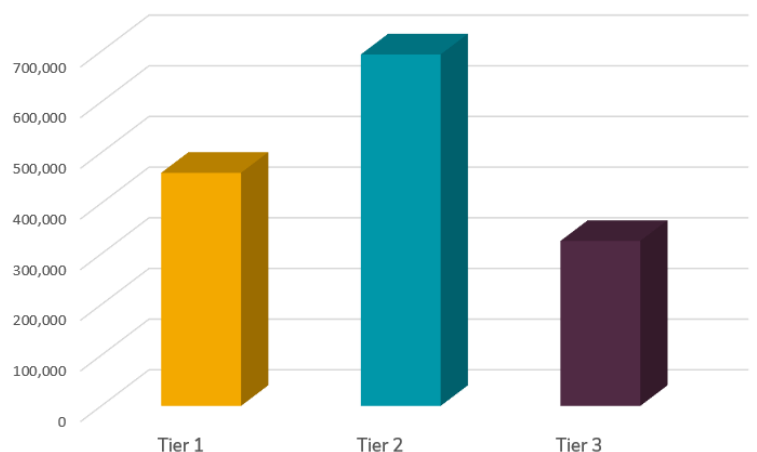
Tier	Number of applications received			Number of applications approved			
	Total received	Withdrawn	Total processed	Fully funded	Partially funded	Total funded	Approval rate
Tier 1	66	13	53	21	18	39	74%
Tier 2	33	8	25	5	7	12	48%
Tier 3	16	6	10	1	2	3	30%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>61%</b>

## Distribution of dollars by tier

The Economic Development Fund approved \$1,479,476 for projects in the fiscal year April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Some of these projects are multi-year initiatives. The largest portion of this funding went to Tier 2 projects followed by Tier 1 and Tier 3.

Figure 2: Distribution of dollars per tier

Approvals by tier	Number of approved projects	Amount approved
Tier 1	39	\$460,085
Tier 2	12	\$693,727
Tier 3	3	\$325,664
<b>Totals</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$1,479,476</b>



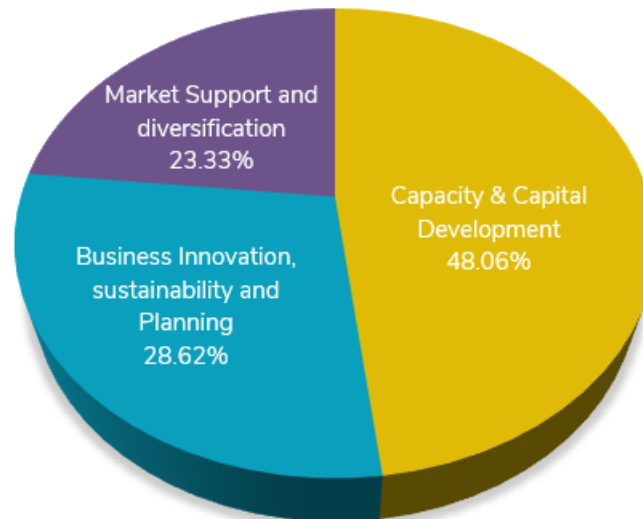
## Distribution of dollars by project category

All projects are assigned to specific categories. The information below reflects the number of projects approved in each category for the 2021–2022 fiscal year, and the distributional breakdown of dollars.

Figure 3: Distribution of dollars by project category

Categories	Number of projects	Amount approved	Percentage of funding approved
Capacity & Capital Development	16	\$711,011	48%
Business Innovation, sustainability and planning	16	\$423,366	29%
Market Support and diversification	22	\$345,098	23%
<b>Total all categories</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>\$1,479,476</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Figure 4: Distribution of approved dollars by project category



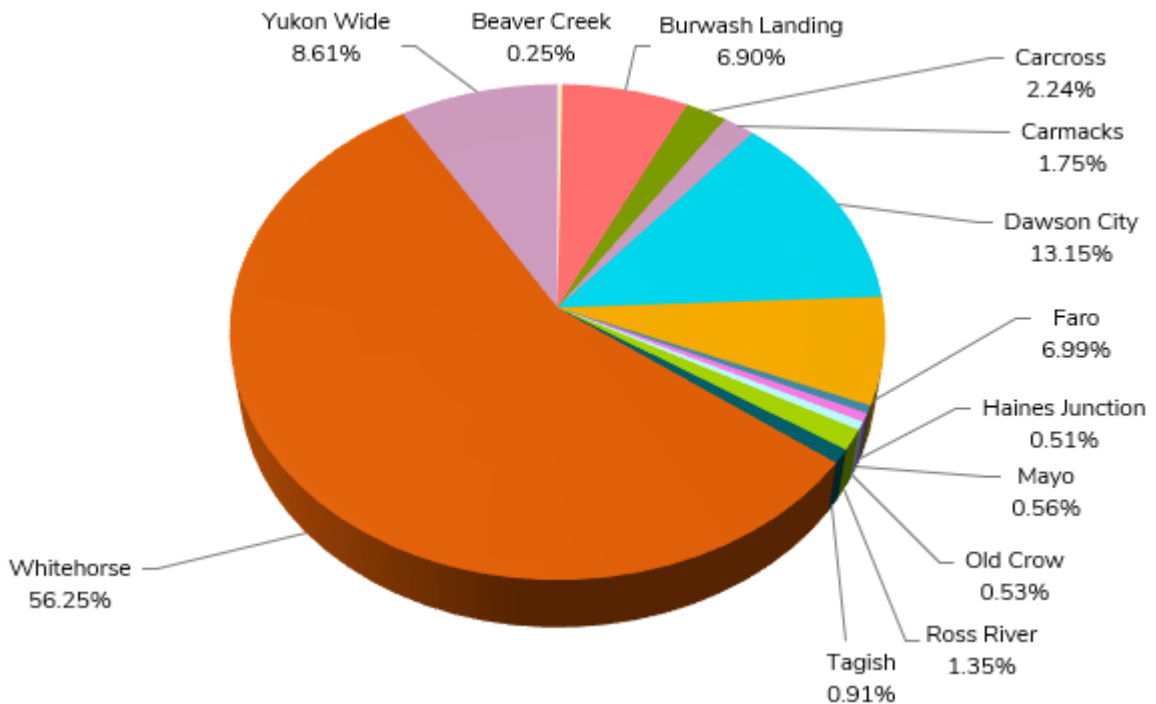
## Distribution of dollars by community

For the 2021–2022 fiscal year, the communities receiving the most dollars were Whitehorse at just over 56 per cent, Dawson City at over 13 per cent and Yukon-wide at just under 9 per cent. When comparing, Whitehorse received 56 per cent and rural Yukon received 44 per cent of funding.

Figure 5: Distribution of dollars by community

Community	Total Amount for all Tiers
Beaver Creek	\$3,713
Burwash Landing	\$102,015
Carcross	\$33,162
Carmacks	\$25,875
Dawson City	\$194,556
Faro	\$103,426
Haines Junction	\$7,500
Mayo	\$8,250
Old Crow	\$7,910
Ross River	\$20,000
Tagish	\$13,510
Whitehorse	\$832,188
Yukon Wide	\$127,371
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,479,476</b>

Figure 6 : Distribution of dollars by community



## Distribution of dollars by community per tier

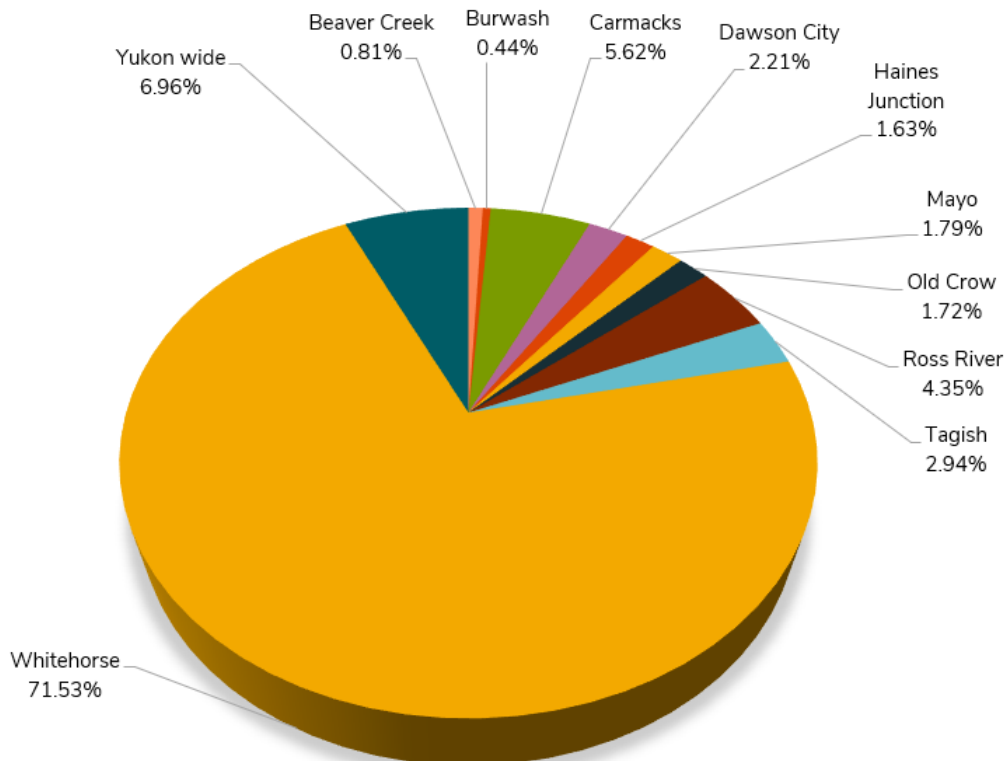
### Tier 1 dollars approved by community (funding requests up to \$30,000)

In Tier 1, the communities receiving the most dollars were Whitehorse at over 71.5 per cent, followed by Yukon-wide at just under 7 per cent and Ross River at nearly 5 per cent.

Figure 7: Distribution of dollars by community for Tier 1

Community	Approved funding
Beaver Creek	\$3,713
Burwash	\$2,015
Carmacks	\$25,875
Dawson City	\$10,187
Haines Junction	\$7,500
Mayo	\$8,250
Old Crow	\$7,910
Ross River	\$20,000
Tagish	\$13,510
Whitehorse	\$329,100
Yukon Wide	\$32,025
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$460,085</b>

Figure 8: Distribution of dollars by community for Tier 1 projects





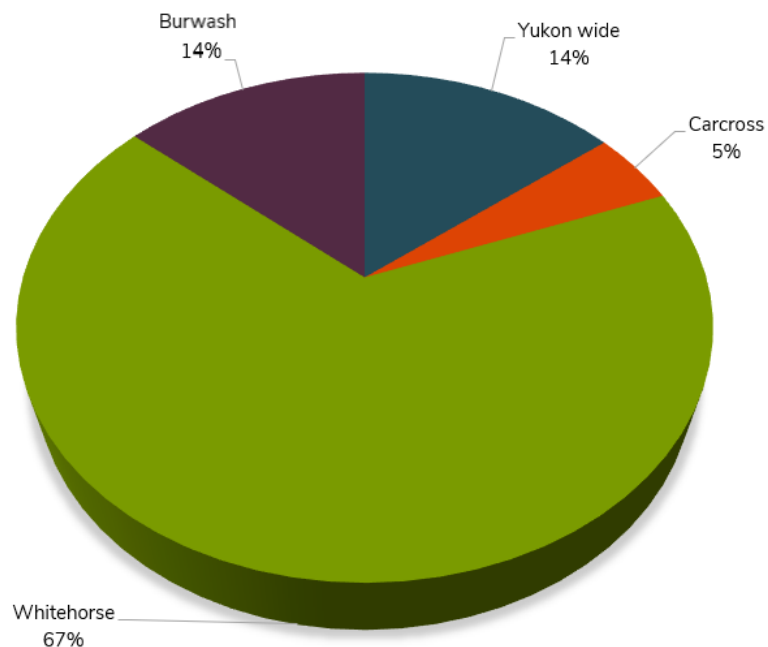
## Tier 2 dollars approved by community (funding requests from \$30,001 to \$100,000)

In Tier 2, the highest percentage of funding went to Whitehorse at over 67 percent followed by Burwash and Yukon-wide which received close to 14 percent each.

Figure 9: Funding by community for Tier 2

Community	Approved funding
Burwash	\$100,000
Carcross	\$33,162
Whitehorse	\$465,219
Yukon Wide	\$95,346
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$693,727</b>

Figure 10: Distribution of dollars by community for Tier 2 projects



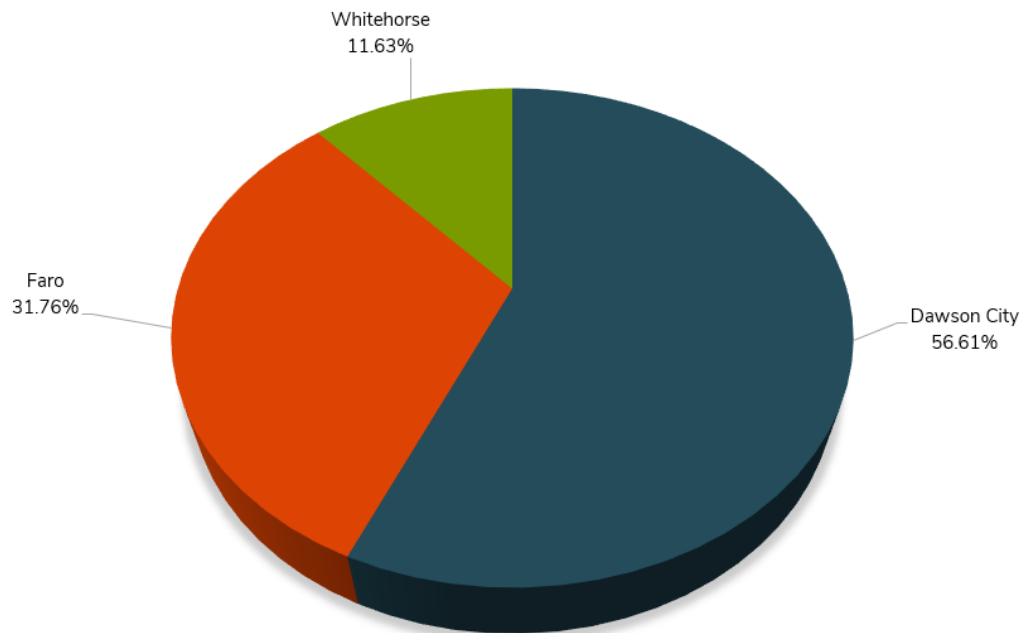
### Tier 3 dollars approved by community (funding requests over \$75,000)

In Tier 3, just under 57 per cent of the funding was awarded to Dawson City with Faro receiving over 31 per cent and Whitehorse receiving just over 11 per cent.

Figure 11: Distribution of dollars by community for Tier 3

Community	Approved funding
Dawson City	\$184,369
Faro	\$103,426
Whitehorse	\$37,869
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$325,664</b>

Figure 12: Funding by community for Tier 3 projects





  
**Yukon**